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THE TIMES

World Cup: prospects
for 16 nations
in Germany, page 11

Gold to be used as backing for international borrowing

A plan for gold to be used by nations as backing for international borrowing has been approved in Washington by finance ministers of the main industrialized countries.

In accepting this, the United States Government has also agreed to a French demand to allow countries to revalue their gold reserves from the official price to one in line with market quotations, so boosting the value of reserves and a country's credit worthiness.

This is likely to help to solve Italy's financial crisis.

World plan will help Italy boost reserves

From Frank Vogt
US Economics Correspondent

Washington, June 12

Finance ministers of the main industrialized countries have agreed that gold can now be used by countries as collateral for international borrowing.

The United States Treasury said today that finance ministers are making progress towards the "two objectives of agreeing on procedural steps to phase gold out of the central role in the monetary system and at the same time permit it to be mobilized when needed by countries in balance of payments difficulties."

The gold agreements, made urgent by the economic crisis in Italy, were reached last night at an informal dinner of the Group of Ten finance ministers, led by Signor Guido Carli, the Italian Central Bank governor, who is the only Italian Government representative attending the Committee of Twenty meetings here on monetary reform.

A senior European government official, who attended the dinner, told *The Times* today that there will be no formal announcement of the agreement reached at the Group of Ten meeting. He said, however, that it has been agreed that countries can use gold as collateral on international borrowing, with gold priced in such deals at a market-related price.

He added that the United States Government has accepted this and that it has also accepted a French demand, made last night at the dinner, which would allow countries, should they wish, to revalue their gold reserves from the official price to price in line with free market quotations.

The official added: "No country, not even Italy, has the intention of selling gold now. The agreements are aimed solely at boosting the value of reserves that countries have accumulated, and by this means the credit-worthiness of countries in international markets will be strengthened."

Italy's gold reserves, as last published for the end of March, are worth \$12,911m (about £3,380m) at yesterday's closing price for gold in the London commodity market. At the official price they were worth \$3,483m.

The official said there was no mention at the meeting last night of a special international loan for Italy. "Italy can now use her gold in security for a loan, and loans can be worked out on a bilateral basis," he said.

Signor Carli is holding several private meetings with individual finance ministers here today and tomorrow. However, a West German Government official stated that "there would be no difficulty in arranging a loan for Italy on short notice, but there is a point in discussing this until Italy has a government and a set of domestic anti-inflation policies."

The United States Treasury noted that this gold agreement does not necessarily mean that countries will be able to get free market rates for their gold holdings.

Aylesford and Co: Apology

On March 12 we published on the front page an article by John Plender headed "Many estate agents running own property-dealing empires".

This article criticized the practice whereby some estate agents have been combining property dealing on a large scale with their orthodox activities. One of the firms of estate agents which the article implied was engaged in this practice was Aylesford and Co through its connexion with Mr Oliver Burge.

We now accept that during the period when Mr Burge held a controlling interest in Aylesford and Co the estate agency side was run by Mr Andrew Langton and was quite separate from the property dealing side run by Mr Burge. Furthermore, since November 1973, Aylesford and Co has been wholly owned by Mr Langton and neither Mr Langton nor Aylesford and Co has any connexion whatsoever with any property-dealing companies.

We unreservedly withdraw the allegations against Aylesford and Co and we are glad to apologize to them for the embarrassment they have been caused.

Price curb on main foodstuffs defended

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

Westminster

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, announced in the Commons yesterday that she has reached agreement with retailers on a voluntary control of prices of essential foodstuffs and other basic household items.

She said retailers with a turnover of £250,000, who were required to make a 10 per cent reduction on their gross margins, would concentrate in a list of agreed basic items. Those affected will be mainly the large supermarket chains.

The Retail Consortium had agreed to recommend her proposals to its members, and other voluntary groups had told her that they would cooperate. Small traders would be asked to make reductions, although they would be unable to include all the items on the agreed list.

Mrs Williams said she had also agreed with food manufacturers, who in many cases determined the extent of the promotional activity, to concentrate their promotional cuts on certain basic items.

Although Mrs Williams made no pretence that her scheme would do more than help the most hard-pressed families, or that it would reduce the retail price index, the announcement brought a tirade from Mr Paul Channon, on the Opposition front benches.

Mrs Williams, he thundered, was engaged upon a cynical political charade designed to fool the British people in the short term without regard to the long-term consequences. It was a cynical charade, he said, because the Government had been concerned to reduce the rate of inflation. Some prices would be kept steady while the prices of other basic foods would have to rise to compensate for the reductions. What she had proposed, Mr Channon said, was verging on the ridiculous.

Mrs Williams replied that the purpose of the agreement was to hold down the price of the most essential foodstuffs. She claimed no more than that. Her aim was to help in particular pensioners and other low-income families who were worst affected by inflation. She reminded the House that the rate of increase in the food index was slowing, and that was not unrelated to action taken by the Government.

The basic items on the retailers' list are: bread, butter, baby milk, flour, apples, bananas and oranges, potatoes, one basic vegetable, one tin of condensed milk, one tin of corned beef, one tin of tomato soup, one tin of chicken soup, one tin of beef soup, one tin of lamb soup, one tin of ham and corned beef, one tin of corned beef and corned beef, one tin of corned beef and corned beef.

The manufacturers have agreed to concentrate promotion cuts on: sausages, cooking oil, cooking fat, one tin of condensed milk, one tin of corned beef, one tin of tomato soup, one tin of chicken soup, one tin of beef soup, one tin of lamb soup, one tin of ham and corned beef, one tin of corned beef and corned beef, one tin of corned beef and corned beef.

Plan welcomed: Spar, one of the largest voluntary grocery organizations, last night welcomed Mrs Williams' scheme. Patricia Tisdall writes: Its endorsement of the voluntary package, together with that of the Retail Consortium, means that it is likely to be accepted at least in principle by well over 90 per cent of food traders.

Parliamentary report, page 10

Israel MPs told of torturing of prisoners by Syrians

From Eric Marsden
Jerusalem, June 12

Two Israeli prisoners of war in Syria died after torture, five were maimed and many others suffered injuries, Mr Shimon Peres, the Israel Defence Minister, alleged in the Knesset today.

He disclosed that debriefing of the 68 prisoners who returned last week under the disengagement agreement elicited that electric shocks, tearing out of fingernails and toenails, whipping and blows on open wounds were used during interrogation of the prisoners.

Mr Peres was speaking in a Knesset debate on the treatment of the prisoners, more than 20 of whom listened intently from the visitors' gallery. He alleged that Syria had grossly violated the Geneva Convention, to which it was a signatory. Syria had

acted in a way that was beneath any human standards in peace or war, Mr Peres said.

The Minister cited cases in which Syrian soldiers were reported to have fired at point-blank range at pilots bailing out and at soldiers who had thrown down their arms.

He recalled that for four months the Damascus Government refused to state how many prisoners it held or give their names. Letters to prisoners from their families were not handed over until the beginning of last month, seven months after they were taken captive.

Quoting "objective" testimony received in Israel, Mr Peres said the men were held under severely overcrowded conditions—as many as 30 in a small, narrow cell with only 21 mattresses. Without adequate

ventilation and with only minimal sanitary facilities, the food was poor, even for the wounded, and medical treatment bad and irregular, he said.

During interrogation electric shocks were applied to sensitive parts of the body. Nails were torn out. In one case a hole was drilled in a nail, which was then torn out with an iron hook. Men were beaten and whipped on various parts of the body.

A preliminary report by the Israel Army's chief medical officer said that the vast majority of prisoners were exposed to severe physical and mental torture. The methods were beating and electric shocks, wounds deliberately inflicted on the ears, burns on the legs and "suspension in painful positions".

As a result, most of the returning prisoners suffered injuries, including marks of beatings on the soles of the feet, and to the head, ears and teeth.

The report added that treatment at Syrian hospitals was minimal and few were admitted to hospital.

All of them had violated the law by their "inhuman behaviour", Mr Peres said.

"This cruelty was inflicted by all ranks from soldiers and jailers who fired at unarmed prisoners, through the ranks responsible for the terrible tortures, up to the leaders of the regime, who refused to accept the provision of details to the families."

There was no proof that representatives of any foreign power took any active part in interrogations, added Mr Peres, presumably a reference to the recent report in *The Sunday Times* that Russian experts had been involved in injections of succinyl choline, a drug causing agonising spasms and breathlessness, to Israeli prisoners to make them talk.

Mr Peres pointed out that Israel notified the International Red Cross last October that soldiers had been murdered after being taken prisoner on the Golan Heights and Mount Hermon. He called on the civilized world to see that those responsible for atrocities were brought to trial, and to prevent a recurrence.

The Minister dismissed charges of torture made by Syrian returning prisoners as trumped-up attempts to weaken Israel's case.

The House passed a six-point resolution condemning the aggression and "wreck" at the murder and torture of Israel prisoners.



Crowds chant "God bless Nixon" as the American leader drives with President Sadat to Cairo.

Mr Nixon given hero's welcome

From Paul Martin
Cairo, June 12

President Nixon declared on his arrival to a hero's welcome in Cairo today that his meeting with President Sadat might turn out to be "one of the great turning points" in history.

More than a quarter of a million Egyptians lined the route of the President's car procession, cheering and shouting praise as it made its way from the airport to the Presidential palace.

This start to Mr Nixon's Middle East tour was a far cry from the mounting problems he is facing at home. As he made his way through the city he was greeted by placards declaring "God bless you, Nixon". "Keep

it up, Nixon," and "We have confidence in you". At several points wild enthusiastic crowds broke through police cordons in an effort to shake his hand.

Addressing a crowd with President Sadat at the Kubbeh Palace later, President Nixon emphasized the importance of the new relationship between Egypt and the United States. He declared that the United States was determined to develop these relations along two fronts.

The first was the economic field with the United States playing a major role in the development of Egypt. The second was in the search for "permanent, just and equitable peace". The one was inseparable from the other.

President Nixon said that without President Sadat's wisdom, patience and courage it would not have been possible to achieve the breakthrough to peace in the Middle East. "The world owes him a great debt for this," he said. "He was confident that his visit would 'cement the foundations of a new relationship of the two great peoples'."

Looking relaxed and in good spirits, President Nixon stood beside President Sadat in an open Cadillac for the six-mile drive from the airport. With a broad smile he waved and exchanged greetings with the lines of well-wishers. From time to time he singled out someone in the crowd, evoking even more

Continued on page 8, col 1

Noisy protests at Bolshoi first night

By Martin Huckerby

Hundreds of demonstrators stood outside the London Coliseum last night to protest over the first night of the Bolshoi Ballet's visit to Britain.

Holding placards saying "TSS! Stop the Bolshoi! Stop the persecution of Jews!", they lined St Martin's Lane outside the theatre, shouting "Bolshoi out".

At the foot of St Martin's Lane, there was a counter-demonstration by the Palestine Action Campaign, offering "A warm welcome, Bolshoi".

The anti-Bolshoi demonstration, organized by the Soviet Jewry Action Committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, included at least five MPs, as well as two girls in black leotards distributing leaflets.

Mr Pannov said he had completely recovered from a bout of fatigue. Both hoped to fly to Vienna on Friday. —Reuters.

World Cup prospects, page 11

White House surrender on plumbers' case subpoena

From Fred Emery
Washington, June 12

President Nixon today gave in to Judge Gesell in the so-called plumbers case. After his earlier defiance of court subpoenas for Mr John Ehrlichman's White House files, Mr Nixon, through counsel, now agreed to waive his claim of executive privilege.

The judge did not issue a final ruling this evening, with two apparently minor objections outstanding. But court sources predicted he would now restore Mr Ehrlichman to the main case (from which his case had been severed), and order the trial, due to start next Monday, to be postponed at least a week.

Mr Nixon had been warned by the judge Gesell that he was "bordering on obstruction of justice" and acting in a manner "totally offensive" to justice by refusing to allow Mr Ehrlichman to be accompanied by counsel in reviewing his files at the White House.

The judge was particularly indignant over Mr Nixon's claim: to be the final judge of the relevancy of the documents to the case; now he has agreed to submit those selected by Mr Ehrlichman to the judge's final in camera inspection.

The action today was similar to Mr Nixon's earlier capitulation to the Federal courts, and further weakened his assertion of "executive privilege" which is supposed to protect the confidentiality of Presidential communications.

It will also have some effect on his appeal, before the Supreme Court, against Judge Gesell's order to him to turn over 64 more tapes. These have been subpoenaed by Mr Leon Jaworski, the special Watergate prosecutor, as being required for a fair trial in the main Watergate cover-up case.

In separate proceedings Judge Sirica today told counsel for Mr Baldeman and Mr Ehrlichman to try having "a nice heart to heart talk" with the President, rather than keep up the subpoena pressure for White House documents Mr Nixon refuses to hand over.

"Instead of going through all the court's red tape, the reasonable and unconventional judge suggested, 'Let's do it the easy way'."

He recalled that the President had praised the two men as the finest public servants he had ever known.

They should simply sit down with Mr Nixon and tell him their personal liberty and freedom would be jeopardized unless evidence were released, or at least "try it with the President and see if it works".

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HOME NEWS

Commissioner says experimental police teams may have to meet dire London manpower loss

By Clive Borrell

Manpower shortage in the Metropolitan Police force is so acute that uniformed officers are having to work the equivalent of six days a week to maintain patrols.

That was disclosed yesterday by Sir Robert Mark, Commissioner of Metropolitan Police, who added: "I dread to think how many hours of overtime the detectives have to work."

Sir Robert said they now had about 800 men fewer in the Metropolitan force than in 1971, although the provincial forces had risen from 38,000 to 76,000 during the same period.

One of the most alarming facts in his report shows that during last year 238 officers left London to join provincial forces. Many who asked for transfers opted for rural areas in the Thames Valley, Hampshire, Lincolnshire, Bath and Somerset.

Provisional figures for this year show a net loss of about a hundred, of whom 39 left to force disciplinary proceedings. In 1973 a total of 90 officers left for disciplinary reasons.



Sir Robert Mark: Officers leaving London for provincial forces.

"The organization of the 43 forces in England and Wales is excellent, and yet the machinery cannot be attracted and distributed where it is needed most," Sir Robert told a press conference at Scotland Yard.

"We cannot go on for ever losing men at this rate without being required to consider new and experimental methods of policing. The best system may have to go in some areas where there is a dire shortage and we would have to rely on team or 'fire brigade' policing, drafting the men into an area when required for emergencies."

A survey to find out why so many men opt for the country forces after a spell in London indicated three main complaints from young officers. The most often repeated complaint concerns the long hours the men have to work, an average of 46 a week. Housing and the high cost of mortgages is a close second, with cost and time spent travelling to and from duty each day a third reason.

Cancellation of police leave at short notice caused strains on family life, Sir Robert said. An unfortunate aspect of London life was the demonstrations which could not be forecast.

"I think that there is a strong case for a special allowance for working in London, as with all other public services. I think that £500 a year is about the minimum we should offer."

Sir Robert, commenting that the force had unprecedented success in detecting crime in 1973, statistics for the first quarter of this year showed that crime was 19 per cent up on the corresponding period for 1973. Homicide and assaults were up 13 per cent, robberies and violent thefts 13 per cent, burglaries 17 per cent, car crimes 32 per cent.

Policing Heathrow: The Metropolitan will take over responsibility for policing Heathrow airport, London, from the British Airports Authority Constabulary, under the Policing of Airports Bill published yesterday.

Leading article, page 19

Nalgo reject TUC's 'cosy pay compact'

The TUC was accused yesterday of "a shocking turnabout" on Phase Three by the 500,000 Strong National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalgo).

A warning was also given at the association's annual conference in Brighton that there was no reason why Nalgo should join in "the cosy political act" of a social compact.

An emergency motion from the executive declared that it would not support any policy affecting income development created by the TUC and the Government without adequate prior consultation within the TUC, and steps to resolve public sector pay questions.

Mr Neil McLean, chairman of Nalgo's economic committee, said members had been shocked at the TUC's "cynical treatment" of the association's London-weighting case.

The executive's view was that an important policy departure by the TUC General Council could not be implemented without the consent of affiliated unions.

Mr Elwyn Jones, an executive member, said the motion was grossly dishonest because it sought to place responsibility for the association's own faults on the TUC General Council. He said a letter sent by the TUC to all affiliated unions in April, setting out its views on forthcoming wage negotiations, should have been circulated by the executive to delegates.

Government plans £900m outlay on British Rail within three years

By John Groser Political Staff

A new system of heavy financial support for the railways is contained in the Railways Bill, which was published yesterday. The Bill contains measures to adjust the British Railways Board's capital debt and borrowing powers and to provide for the financing of inherited pension liabilities.

Under the Bill's provisions the Board would be required to act on lines settled with the approval of the Government in formulating its business policies. The Secretary of State for the Environment would be given wider powers to obtain information about the board's activities.

Ministers say the Bill is the result of a review of rail policy started in 1972 under the Conservatives when it became clear that the board's financial position was deteriorating.

The Government believes that the sort of rail network being maintained by the board is needed by the country and that therefore the country has to pay to maintain it.

That means a commitment of at least £900m in government spending over the three years beginning next January. If more is needed Parliament will be asked to allow it. The Bill is due to receive its second reading in the Commons on June 24.

While financing on this scale clearly is going to be a burden to the taxpayer, the Government

has taken the precaution of writing to almost a hundred big companies in Britain inviting them either to move over or to extend their use of freight services. If that campaign can be made effective, a large part of the financing could be met from industry.

Clause one of the Bill deals with the reconstruction of capital debt. On January 1, next the capital debt the board has incurred with the Government will be reduced from £439m to £250m to reflect a new accounting system whereby most track and signalling expenditure previously on capital account will in future be charged to revenue account.

'Stakes driven into corpses in cemetery'

Vampires were said haunting a London cemetery where stakes were taken from coffins and driven through their hearts, Liam Law, foreman of the Cemetery, said at the Criminal Court yesterday.

The prosecution alleged the "vampire" was Roly, aged 28, said to be a priest of the British Society. It says he stole and held nude ritual ceremonies.

Mr Farrant, deputy charges, said that a stake was driven into the chest of a corpse and three charges of open carcases and in with corpses.

Mr Francis King, an I and writer on black magic, said the court that since the trial of a necromancer in 1967, the idea of the ceremony to bring life temporarily to a dead body so that it could be used to find treasure, or to send on an evil mission.

Mr Farrant, who is leading his own defence, said that the signs had any do with necromancy. He said he was involved with the side of witchcraft and magic to do with black magic.

The trial continues to

Clause in Bill 'a licence to lie'

By Our Parliamentary Staff

A clause in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Bill, which it was said appeared to involve a clash between ethics and law, was agreed to by the Commons yesterday after criticism by some members.

Mr Emlyn Hooson, Liberal member for Montgomeryshire, said the clause enshrined a lie in the law. Mrs Lynda Chalker (Wallasey, C) said it seemed to be a licence to lie.

The purpose of the Bill is to rehabilitate offenders not convicted of any serious offence for a number of years, penalize the unauthorized disclosure of previous convictions, and amend the law of defamation.

The clause under discussion provides that a rehabilitated person should be treated as a person who had not committed an offence and that in court he should not be required to answer any question relating to a spent conviction, and that the answer to any such question "may be framed accordingly".

The Bill, which was presented by Mr Piers Dixon (Truro, C), has Government support and drafting assistance. Mr Lyon, Minister of State, Home Office, said the real question was whether in justice it was right that a man who was convicted of an offence that was not serious should later be able to live as if he had never been convicted.

Mr Wynne drops action BBC spy programme

Mr Greville Wynne, the British businessman imprisoned in Russia for 13 months for spying, has withdrawn legal proceedings against the BBC over a radio programme about espionage.

He had alleged that the BBC had used parts of his book *The Man from Moscow* to "characterise and colour" the programme. *The Penkovsky Riddle*, which should have been broadcast last July in the Radio 4 series *Great Modern Spies*.

Mr Wynne said the programme would infringe his copyright because material was taken from the book without his authority. Yesterday the BBC and Mr Wynne said in a joint statement that legal proceedings "for an injunction for alleged breach of copyright" had been withdrawn.

Mr Wynne, while maintaining the propriety of his claim, wished to repeat what was said on his behalf during the proceedings, namely, that he does

not suggest any impropriety in the preparation of the programme by the BBC. Mr and Mrs Denis Plummer, co-authors of the script, said they were given an injunction on July 5 to programme, which was broadcast that day. Later granted an injunction High Court banning the programme until trial of his claim against the BBC, or order.

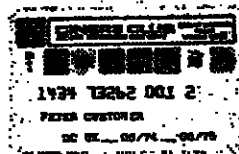
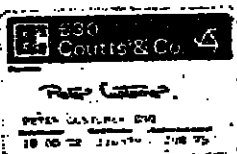
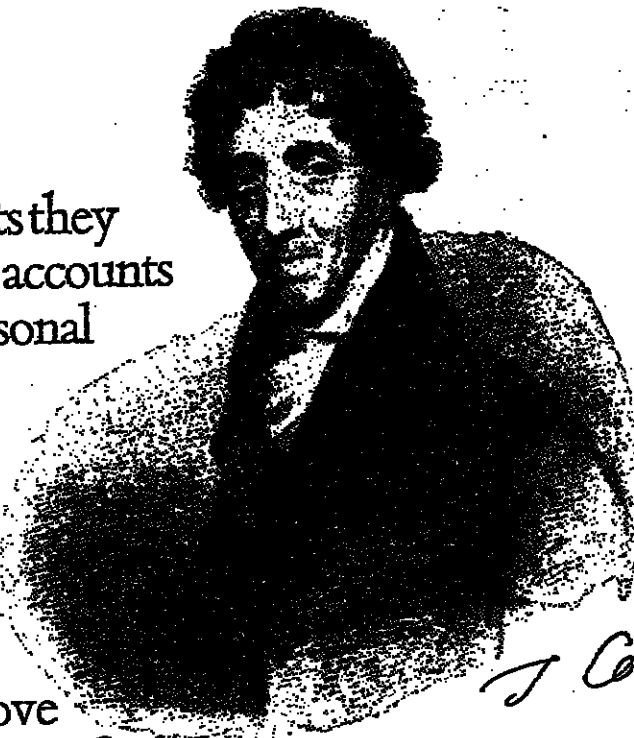
The court was told material sources about Oleg Penkovsky, the "double agent" who worked with Mr Wynne in 1963 and was imprisoned in 1964, were strictly one had to turn to Mr Wynne's book. Later the BBC fully applied to the Court Appeal to have the order set aside.

Mr Wynne was exiled in 1964 for the Soviet spy, Lansdale, who was serving a sentence.

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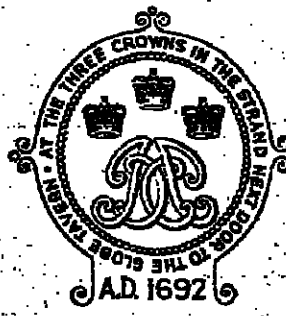
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24 JUN 78	DEPOSIT		10.00	55.00
25 JUN 78	DEPOSIT		10.00	65.00
26 JUN 78	DEPOSIT		10.00	75.00
27 JUN 78	DEPOSIT		10.00	85.00
28 JUN 78	DEPOSIT		10.00	95.00
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1 JUL 78	DEPOSIT		10.00	135.00
2 JUL 78	DEPOSIT		10.00	145.00
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HOME NEWS

Family doctors reject resignation over pay but plan secret move

By John Roper
Medical Reporter

Family doctors are not prepared to make their deep concern about their falling standards of living a resignation issue. But if reasoned argument on what they see as an irrefutable case for increases in their pay is rejected by the Government they have plans for a new type of action.

The representatives of 23,000 general practitioners at the conference of local medical committees at the British Medical Association headquarters yesterday voted against several motions calling for resignation from the National Health Service over pay. The disquiet among them was reflected by the 141 motions about remuneration on the agenda.

There was criticism of the Government for its failure to publish the current report of the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration in time for it to be considered by the conference. It was said that the report had been with the Government since May 17 and the delay in publishing (it is due out next Tuesday) was seen as a deliberate political move.

Dr E. B. Ridge, acting chairman of the General Medical Services Committee, said he expected that the report would

fall within Phase Three and that would mean that the fall in doctors' pay compared with salaries generally would reach about 18 per cent. When the statutory incomes policy ended next month, they must decide how to protect their standards of living.

Their case would be based on the implications for the quality of care of persistent under-financing of the health service and on the implications of a serious trend for the numbers of principals in general practice to decline. In the first half of 1972 the net increase in the number of principals was 145. Since then the total had steadily declined and in the second half of last year the net change was minus 41.

If reasoned argument failed they would have to make the public realise the true cost in present money values of an effective level of medical care. They had devised a new technique which given the support of all family doctors, could achieve the result they sought.

Details of this technique were not disclosed. Dr Ridge said later in the debate that resignation should be reserved for the time when things had gone so far wrong with the health service that they were forced to the conclusion that it had ceased to be a safe medium through which to provide care for their patients.

'Illegal' syllabus puzzle

Teachers of religious education will have to change their methods if the legal opinion of a Birmingham barrister, that the city's new syllabus contravenes the 1944 Education Act, is upheld, Miss Sheila Wright, chairman of the education committee, said yesterday.

She has asked the Department of Education and Science to give a ruling on the proposed syllabus, which includes a section on communism.

Miss Wright said: "A great

majority of religious teachers in the country offer broad-based courses rather than straightforward religious instruction."

A barrister retained by the city solicitor has advised that the syllabus is not specific enough to meet the terms of the 1944 Education Act, that refer to religious instruction. The barrister quotes the Oxford English Dictionary definition of the word "syllabus" as "concise statement" or "table of heads of discourse".



First made: London Transport has approved its first poster showing a made. It publicises a West End play, Life Class, in which Miss Rosemary Martin (above) is an artist's model.

Many young children watch TV after 9 pm

By Kenneth Gosling

A study prepared for the BBC's General Advisory Council contains evidence that many young children still watch television after 9 pm and that some stay up until the adults finish watching.

Figures accompanying the study, which was carried out during the spring school term, last year and published today, show how many children were watching television between 7.30 and 11 pm.

In the half-hour between 7.30 and 8 pm 4 per cent of five to seven-year-olds, 6 per cent of eight to 11-year-olds and 61 per cent of 12 to 14-year-olds were watching. In the next half-hour the figures were 35, 64 and 66 per cent respectively. Between 9 and 9.30 pm the figures were 7, 27 and 51.

The figures dropped in the next half-hour—5, 21 and 43 per cent between 10.30 and 11 pm. 2 per cent of the five to seven-year-olds, 7 per cent of the eight to 11-year-olds and 18 per cent of 12 to 14-year-olds were still watching.

The report also says that no matter how much information about a programme is published in advance, there are many homes in which it is not read. "Whatever the reason for this indifference, it is almost certainly the children in homes such as these who are most in need of protection."

However, the BBC's "water-shed" policy, under which programmes unsuitable for adults are shown after 9 pm, still offered the best practical protection for children.

The report says of the argument that listening to Radio 1 disc jockeys encourages sloppy speech that many children, especially those retarded by living in a home where communication is usually in monosyllables, are helped to communicate by listening to such programmes.

Children as Viewers and Listeners. BBC Publications, 35 Marylebone High Street, W1; published free.

£200 fines on wreck strippers

Two men involved in stripping the sunken wreck of the steamship Solami off the Northumberland coast were each fined £200 at Belford Magistrates' Court, Northumberland, yesterday on explosives charges.

Harry Hemsley, aged 39, of Charlton Place, and Douglas Frederick Harner, aged 34, of Western Road, both Leeds, partners in the firm of Ocean Diving Services, admitted storing explosives, gelignite and electro detonators in unlawful places at Seahouses harbour and on board a boat at Amble.

WEST EUROPE

French communist leader takes leaf from de Gaulle's book in call to 'workers and patriots'

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, June 12

Everyone is competing for the favours of the centre-left, in the context of the major reshuffle of the French political scene which was brought about by the last presidential elections. Yesterday M. Michel Jobert, the former Foreign Minister announced that he was launching a new "regrouping" of the forces of the centre-left, which would include those progressive Gaullists who feel orphaned by the failure of M. Jacques Chaban-Delmas's candidature.

New M. Georges Marchais, General Secretary of the Communist Party, taking a leaf out of General de Gaulle's own book, has issued an appeal to Gaullists to join a "vast national and popular movement" in which different parties will find a place side by side while preserving their independence and original character.

He told a meeting of his party's Central Committee yesterday that if the advanced section of the working class was committed to the idea of socialism, "the majority of our people is not yet ready to go over to it". It was not to

socialism that the party wished to win over the masses of those who had not yet joined the struggle for purely democratic objectives but to the democratic objectives themselves.

"We think that later, on the basis of their experience and of the political and ideological action we shall pursue, they will in turn come to hope for the victory of socialism," M. Marchais said.

He emphasised at a press conference this morning that what was involved was "not socialism but reforms". There was no question of "beginning to create the socialist society".

However, the reforms were not meant to leave the existing capitalist society fundamentally unchanged. They involved "far-reaching democratic reforms which would strike a first blow at the domination of the union of the left was within reach, M. Marchais added.

"To achieve a new leap forward, we must become penetrated with this idea—to do everything, absolutely everything, with unprecedented boldness, to extend the union of socialism and political forces which want a policy of social progress, democracy and national independence, and are ready to fight together to make this programme prevail."

At the same time, the Communist Party was not willing to be relegated to second or third place within the union of the left. It was determined to remain the first party in order to put an end to capitalist domination in France, and would reinforce its own ranks and its appeal in the country with this end in view.

The National Assembly made another attempt today at reproducing a Westminster-style "question time", in accordance with the wish of President Giscard d'Estaing to live a parliamentary democracy.

It was not altogether convincing, but it was an improvement on the weekly question d'actualité, introduced a couple of years ago, which consisted in ministers reading out prepared answers to before an almost empty House, with the exception of himself often not even taking the trouble to be present.

Today's performance was still a far cry from the impromptu, hard-hitting Westminster dialogue between the Government and MPs.

EEC plan for aid to developing nations

From Roger Berthoud
Brussels, June 12

An outline of project developing countries next five years shows that as much as being earned as countries not associated with European Community associates.

Twenty countries, African, have enjoyed aid benefits of a status. With another 24 Caribbean and Pacific countries from the Comm they are at present negotiating new agreements.

The five-year outline, drawn up by the dev aid ministers of the N, they meet in Luxembourg tomorrow. It was called Mrs. Judith Hart, the Minister, at the last April 30.

Mrs Hart's main aim meeting was to suggest highly populated and stricken Asian countries India and Bangladesh as well as much aid as the a countries, which are cases relatively poor India's subsequent commitment is not to strengthen the minister.

Mrs Hart may refer to the aid provided by the EEC has now produced. It that the biggest slice funds benefiting non-a countries is in the form aid.

Both the British and regard this as a mere structural reforms necessary remedy endemic poverty EEC for the coming five as outlined by the Com and expressed in a account (pre-1971 dollar to the pound) include: the European Development Fund (for the 14 states) a new agreement EEC—between 2,500 3,500m over five years.

Food aid, mainly for associated countries—500m a year.

Aid for Tunisia, I Algeria and Malta with Mediterranean policy—50m a year. Agreement concluded with Lebanon. Jordan and Egypt are expected to include aid.

Special aid proposed the energy price, exp 420m spread over 1974 only. A decision on this required.

Special aid for the afflicted Sahel area, pledged—40m for 1974. Special aid for Palestinian refugees, mainly for education.

Test missile crashes near camping site

Rodez, SW France, June 12.—A French ground-to-ground missile fell yesterday near a camping site adjoining the desolate Larzac plateau from where it was fired, but no one was hurt when it exploded.

Army authorities today refused to comment on the incident, which is expected to bring protests from environmentalists and mountain farmers who are fighting against a Government decision to extend the military camp built on the plateau.

Spanish hoteliers threaten to cancel package tours

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, June 12

With the peak of the holiday season approaching, hotel owners in Benidorm are threatening to cancel their foreign package tour contracts unless the Government helps them to obtain an 18 per cent price rise.

In an open letter to Senor Pio Cabanillas, Minister of Information and Tourism, representatives of the Association of Hospitality and Tourism in Benidorm disclosed that Costa Blanca hoteliers have already asked foreign tour operators for an 18 per cent supplement on this year's contracts.

The letter said that the tour operators had refused. Hotel owners claim that their costs have risen so much that they would lose money if they honoured present contracts. They said that if the ministry cannot help them financially, it should demand that foreign tour operators pay the 18 per cent supplement.

If they do not get the increase, the hoteliers say, they will cancel the contracts. They point out that this would have a bad effect on those employed in

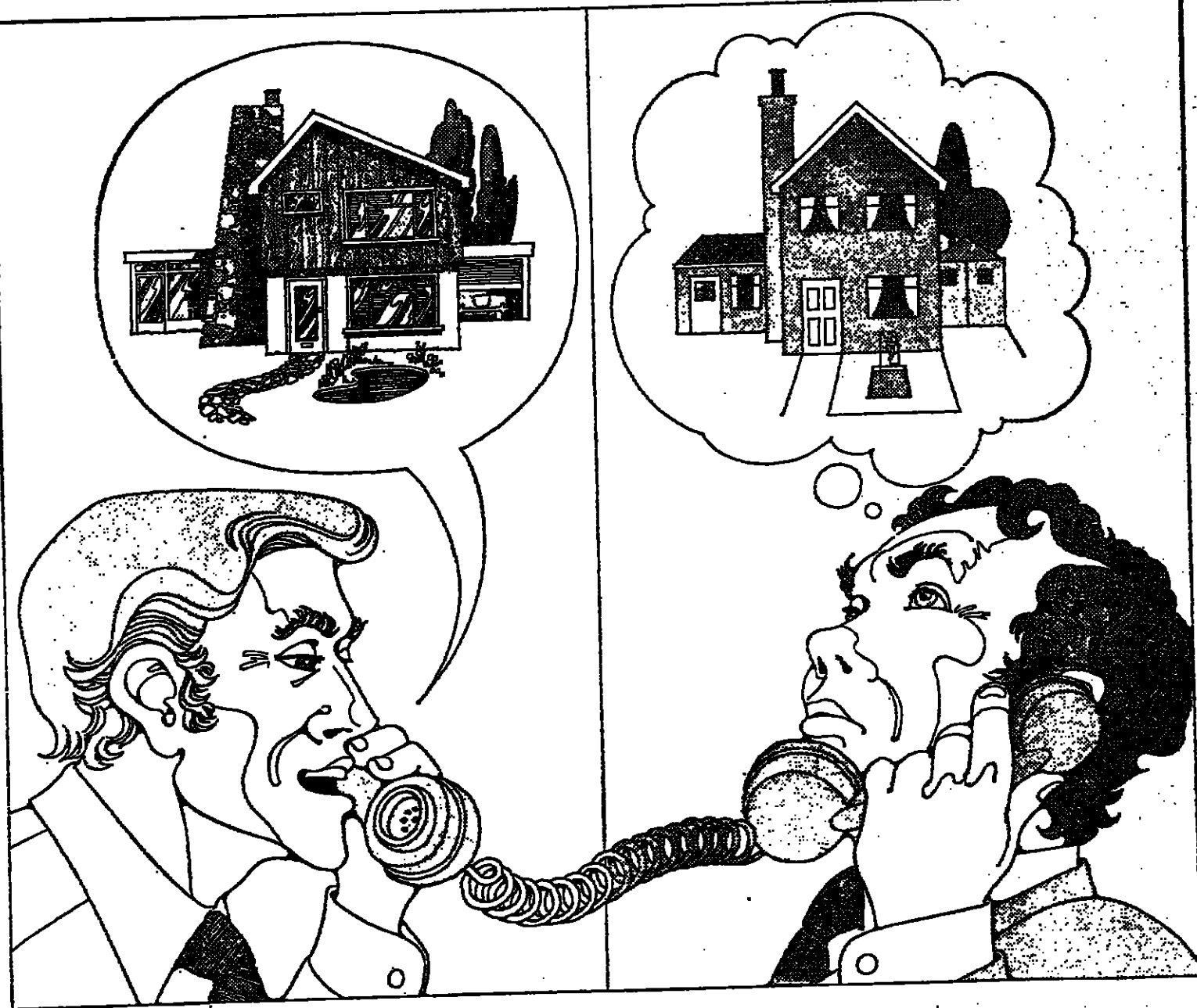
the tourist industry on the Costa Blanca.

Although they did not say so, the rescinding of contracts would cause serious complications for tour operators who would be confronted with a series of problems in the high season with no hotels for their clients.

The open letter told the minister: "We leave in your hands two things which we consider vital—our survival, and the survival of the families we support through their work in our establishments."

Among costs which have risen sharply during the inflation from which Spain is suffering, the hoteliers mentioned cooking gas, fuel oil, electricity, salaries and social security taxes. They estimated that even if their hotels were full all the season they would still have to charge each client 25p more a day than last year.

A leading article in the latest issue of the Spanish tourist industry's journal complained that the Government spent nearly as much on Spain's participation in the recent Sao Paulo trade fair as it spends in a year on tourist promotion around the world.



Talking blind can waste you a lot of time and money.

Just a reminder of the Xerox Telecopier 400 facsimile transceiver—the machine which transmits and receives actual copies over the phone. And thereby saves you money every day.

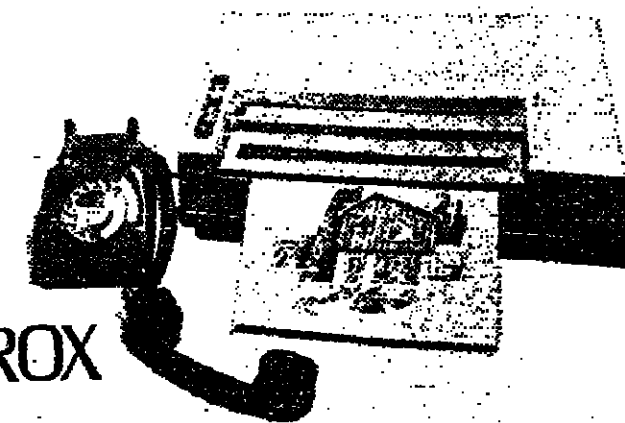
How? Ask anyone who's tried to explain complex engineering drawings or marketing documents by word of mouth.

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emerges at the other end. No matter what the distance. 'Enfin alors! 'Sehr gut! 'Non è vero! 'Oh now I see! And other expressions of illumination and delight.

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There's a new low fare on this service—£10 return—which saves you over £5 on the standard fare. So you'll have a bit of spare cash to make the most of your visit.

*From June 21 to Sep 28 depart 23.00 arrive 07.05.

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Liverpool: 5th Floor, Foster House, Cannon Place, Liverpool L1 8JN. Tel. 051 228 221. Newcastle: Maybank House, 27-29 Grainger Street, Newcastle NE1 5JH. Tel. 0832 8222.
Manchester: 5th Floor, Bank House, Charlotte Street, Manchester M1 4ET. Tel. 061 228 221. Newcastle: Maybank House, 27-29 Grainger Street, Newcastle NE1 5JH. Tel. 0832 8222.

EAST EUROPE

Socialists and Republicans state
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Crisis talks: Signor Enrico Berlinguer, the Communist Party leader, leaving the Presidential Palace yesterday after being consulted by President Leone.

He appealed in the name of all Italian industrialists for a prompt solution to the problem of forming a new government.

The political mathematics of the crisis offer little indication of where the solution can be sought with the exception that any foreseeable administration will be led by a Christian Democrat. The position in the two Houses is as follows (Parties asterisked belonged to or supported the outgoing Government):

Parties	Chamber	Senate
Christian Democrats (*)	288	137
Socialists (*)	81	34
Social Democrats (*)	21	12
Republicans (*)	15	12
Communists	175	74
Proletarian Unity	20	10
Liberals	20	10
MSI (Neo-Fascists)	55	26
Others	7	6
	689	312

The Republicans, who backed the last Government without accepting ministries, have placed weighty conditions on their support of a new government.

Signor Ugo la Malfa, their leader and a former Minister of the Treasury in the last Government but one, says that he would back a government "which, providing the necessary democratic guarantees, has a severe and rigorous programme, such as would stop the

further decline of the country and open the road to its economic, laborious and hard revival.

"And the Government would only be supported in so far as its actions corresponded to its promises," he stated. If such a government should emerge from the current crisis, Italy would indeed be on a fresh political path.

Signor Enrico Berlinguer, the Communist Party leader, said on leaving the Presidential Palace after having been con-

sulted by President Leone: "Apart from the internal differences within the coalition, the crisis throws light on the basic contradiction in the Italian political situation. On the one hand, there is the reality of a country rich in energy, working capacity and democratic will; on the other, there are governments, with confused and incoherent approaches, devoid of moral vigour and unstable."

He added that this situation would not continue. The country needed a political leadership capable of using the great potentialities of the workers and of the people, and by this he meant, he said, "A government based on the collaboration of all the popular forces."

Italian lesson for Europe, page 18

Nato happy
over
U.S. nuclear
strategy

Oslo, June 12

From Our Correspondent
The American nuclear counterforce strategy gained general approval when the two-day meeting of the Nato nuclear planning group ended in Bergen today. The strategy was regarded as being in line with the general Nato idea of "flexible response."

During the talks, Mr. James Schlesinger, United States Secretary of Defence, explained the American position concerning the so-called "mini-nucs", the smallest of nuclear devices which can be used with small conventional weapons. He said this type of weapon did not accord with American views and interests.

It belonged to the "grey" area where the borderline between nuclear and non-nuclear weapons was blurred. The United States put greater emphasis on conventional weapons and the perfection of accuracy and "cleanness" of nuclear weapons.

During discussion of the East-West balance, it was disclosed that Russia's technological progress had been faster than expected. This was especially so for multi-warhead nuclear weapons. This seemed to imply a threat to America's technological superiority in production of key weapons.

Mr. Schlesinger showed mini-sters and military chiefs satellite pictures of various aspects of Russia's development of more sophisticated nuclear weapons.

The position of the Netherlands aroused some concern because of reductions in the defence budget, which the present Government is committed.

Mr. Vredeling, the Dutch Minister of Defence, gave an assurance that the reductions would not in any way affect the outcome of discussions going on about mutually balanced reduction of forces in Central Europe.

The Dutch combat-ready forces would be kept at their present level pending the outcome of these negotiations, he said. But delegates were apprehensive that Holland's defence capacity might be affected.

Countries represented at the meeting were the United States, Canada, Britain, West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Greece and Norway.

page 18

Danish tax case
MP loses
his immunityFrom Our Correspondent
Copenhagen, June 12

The Danish Folketing today removed the parliamentary immunity of M. Mogens Glistrup, the Progress Party leader, to allow the state attorney to indict him provisionally on fraud, tax evasion and other charges.

Glistrup has been under investigation since he claimed three years ago that he had arranged investments so that he paid no income tax. Today's vote was 134 in favour of removing immunity with 26 opposed.

In voting against the removal of immunity, the Progress Party argued that the charges were political persecution. Mr. Karl Skytte, president of the Folketing, answered that "in our modern parliamentary system the use of the courts by a government as a form of political pressure against a member must be... very difficult to conceive."

Arrested woman
seen by consul

Berlin, June 12—Susan Ballantine, a 46-year-old American, was seen by the American consul today after her arrest 11 days ago for allegedly trying to smuggle her East German boyfriend to the West.

The British Vice-Consul met Miss Ballantine, aged 22, from Cheltenham, for 30 minutes at East Berlin's state security headquarters and found her in good shape, an embassy spokesman said—Reuter.

Singer killed in
Cannes shooting

Cannes, June 12—Herb Coleman, a 46-year-old tenor of the American vocal group, the Delta Rhythm Boys, was shot and killed outside the Palm Beach Casino here at dawn today.

A 28-year-old Frenchman was detained.

Quality of Italian espionage
results 'bewilderingly low'From Our Own Correspondent
Rome, June 12

Signor Andreotti, the Minister of Defence, made the remarkable confession in an interview published today that a great deal of money was spent on the official secret service but the standard of the results was "bewilderingly low."

The Minister's statement to the periodical *Il Mondo* could be taken as reassuring, but Signor Andreotti was clearly not intending to set people's minds at rest.

He confirmed the Parliament's directives of May, 1971, calling for the reorganization of the military counter-intelligence service and the destruction of the files it possessed on Italian citizens had been totally ignored. He said: "Nothing at all has been done. The rule with us is—much is created but nothing is destroyed."

A parliamentary commission which in 1969 and 1970 studied the problem of the military secret services, which are the heart of the security system, found that it had 157,000 files on Italians to which it is said at least another 34,000 have been added including files on industrialists, journalists, judges, politicians and trade unionists.

The secret services, particularly military counter-espionage, have lately been under renewed attack, not only for flouting Parliament's wishes but for alleged inefficiency, complicity with subversive elements and a general failure to have changed its ways despite what Parliament had to say three years ago.

One of the results last month of the Brescia bomb, which killed seven people at an anti-fascist demonstration, was the promise that a new department to combat political terrorism would be set up to replace the Ministry of the Interior's department for security matters.

All this would warrant little more than a shrug of the shoulder if it were not for the fact that Rome is unhappy and embarrassed about its failure for international espionage. It is natural that the local security services should consequently be in demand by other people's espionage services.

Certainly the abolition of the Department for Security matters, which Signor Andreotti welcomed as a step in the right direction will have deprived some of the Western services at work here of their immediate contacts.

EEG left sends
help to Lisbon

Strasbourg, June 12—The Socialist group in the European Parliament is to provide its colleagues in Portugal with \$20,000 (about £3,500) and advice for setting up a new party organization.

Basques jailed
for 40 years

Sanctander, June 12—A military court here last night sentenced two members of the illegal Basque separatist organization ETA to 30 years' imprisonment for their part in the kidnapping of a wealthy industrialist.

Priest sent recruits to Frelimo

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, June 12

A Spanish missionary priest expelled from Mozambique last year admitted here today that he sent young Africans to join Frelimo—the Mozambique Liberation Front.

The priest's disclosures confirmed the close relationship between some European Catholic missionaries and Frelimo which was alleged by Portuguese authorities before the fall of the regime of Dr. Marcello Caetano.

Father Jose Maria Lechundi, of the Burgos Fathers based in Madrid, said that he and a fellow Spanish priest secretary returned to Mozambique this year via Tanzania and he was inside the Portuguese colony, in Frelimo-held territory, at the time of the military coup in Lisbon on April 25. He identified his companion on the trip as Father Vicente Berenguer.

Father Lechundi also claimed that Frelimo fighters shot down

three Rhodesian Fiat aircraft at Fungo, near Tete, last March. He said two other Rhodesian Air Force aircraft were shot down at Cabo Delgado.

Speaking with undisguised sympathy for the African nationalist movement, the Basque-born priest added that he is convinced that Frelimo will not agree to negotiate with Portugal about the future of Mozambique until the Portuguese agree to independence for the colony. He said Frelimo are not convinced by promises of self-determination made by President Spínola.

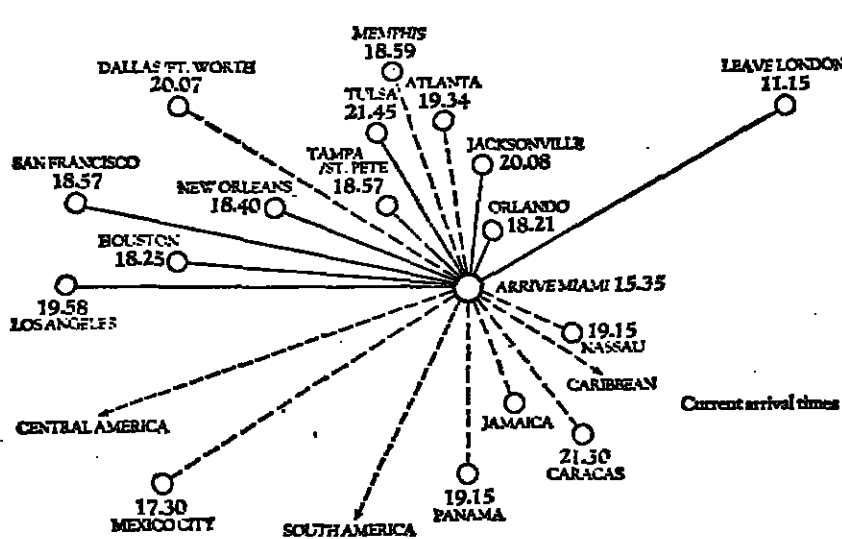
Describing Frelimo training camps known as "Live-boxes" he said that an English woman and two Dutch couples were among teachers employed in Tanzania to give Frelimo recruits a basic education. He did not identify the English school teacher. He claimed that Frelimo had taught a million Africans to read and write.

Father Lechundi said that he

and Father Berenguer spent 45 days in southern Tanzania and inside Mozambique at the invitation of Frelimo. He spoke of hospitals, schools and supply centres for the guerrilla movement in the Tanzanian towns of Tunduru, Bagamoyo and Mtwara. He did not disclose the location of guerrilla installations inside Mozambique.

Educational facilities at Tunduru included a primary school, and at Bagamoyo a high school. At Mtwara there is a Frelimo hospital and an intermediate school. He claimed that the medical facilities are generally better than those available to jungle dwellers living under Portuguese rule in Mozambique.

The missionary admitted that the ideology of Frelimo is "African, atheist and Marxist" but added that the organization was willing to cooperate with some missionaries because of their desire to help the Africans.

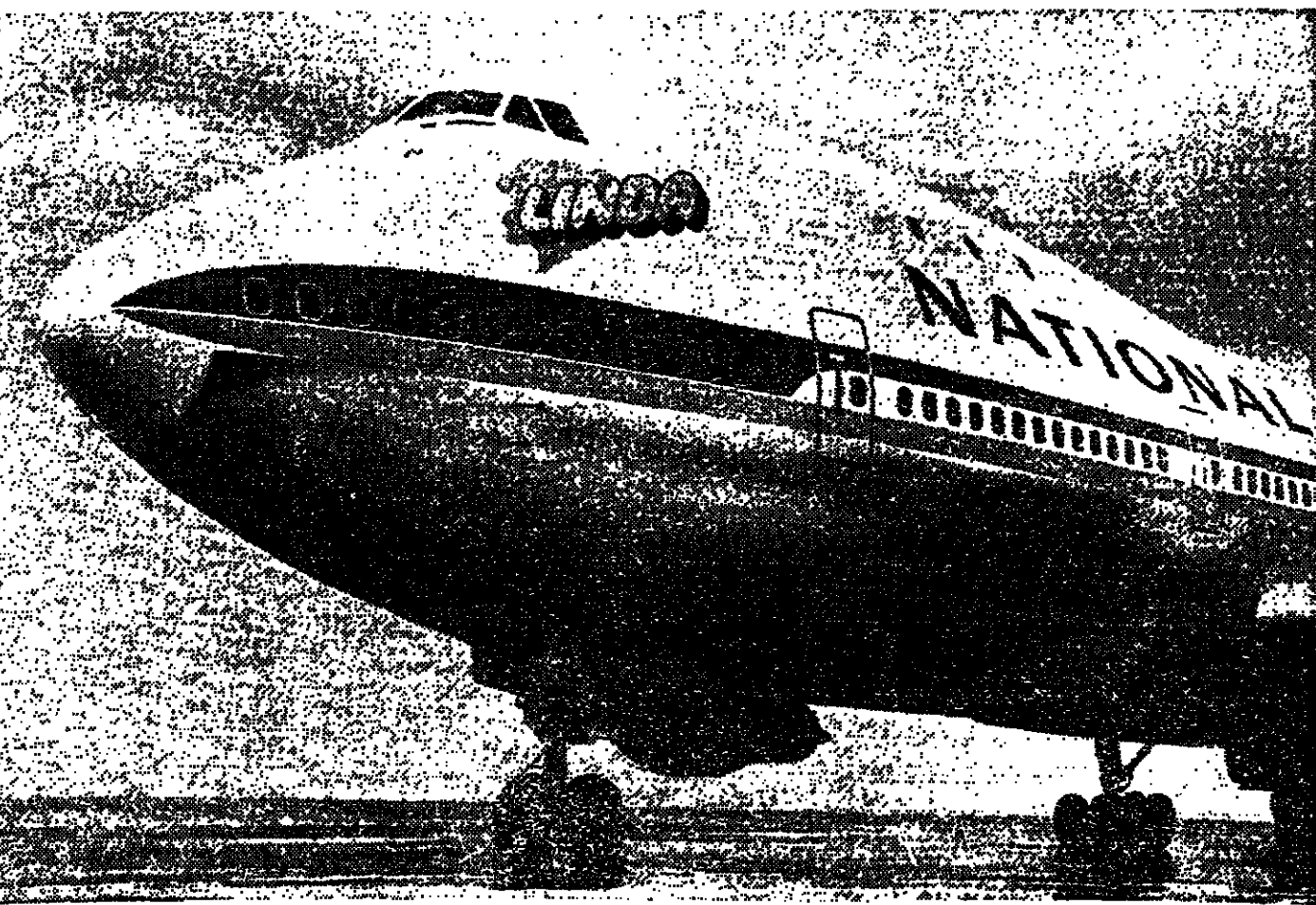
Who's Linda?
National's big,
beautiful, daily
747 to Miami.
That's who.

Linda is one of our comfortable, luxurious, wide-bodied daily 747s nonstop from London to Miami.

If you are flying to the States for a business trip, why not spend a few days, before or afterwards, relaxing on Key Biscayne? That's a lovely tropical island just minutes away from Miami. There are plenty of fine hotels, sailing, golfing and beautiful beaches.

Avoid the hustle and bustle of New York. Fly us nonstop to calm, beautiful Miami. From Miami we can fly you to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Houston, New Orleans and all of Florida. And we have terrific connections to the Caribbean and all of Latin America.

Fly Linda. For reservations call your travel agent or National Airlines at 01-629 8272.



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National accepts American Express, Barclaycard, Diners Club, Carte Blanche, UATP and cash.

OVERSEAS

Kissinger threat to resign brings documentary challenge to his version in wiretapping issue

From Fred Emery
Washington, June 12
Admission, incredulity, sympathy for being overwrought—these mark newspaper reactions here today to the threat of Kissinger's resignation.

"Silly and wrong-headed, a lapse... befitting a nineteenth century Austrian foreign minister," the *Washington Post* said in its leading editorial. "Irresponsible, that is the only word for it," the *Baltimore Sun* lamented.

"Take a couple weeks' vacation," the *Washington Star* advised, adding: "Nor are we convinced... his capacity to conduct foreign relations of this country is, or will be compromised, by this tempest in a diplomatic tea pot."

And inevitably, after the Secretary of State's threat, the newspapers pour forth with Federal Bureau of Investigation documents challenging gravely his insistent version in the controversial wire tapping issue.

Most serious of all, perhaps, Senator William Fulbright, chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, to whom Dr. Kissinger has appealed, is known to doubt that he can be "cleared" too easily. It is Dr. Kissinger's adamant testimony before the committee, that he did not initiate the wire tapping of 17 staff associates and journalists, which is the cause of the challenges.

Senator Fulbright, who spoke informally last night at the

Queen's birthday party at the British Embassy, has stated firmly that Dr. Kissinger should not resign over this issue, yet he knows of one apparently deep flaw in the Secretary's reasoning.

It is that Dr. Kissinger insists that all the evidence is in and that the Fulbright committee has already considered every item that is now being leaked out. This is categorically contested not only by members of the House Judiciary committee, but also by staff men on the Senate foreign relations subcommittee, who are in charge of the new "review" of the Kissinger case.

They maintain that a federal court has handed over to the House impeachment inquiry a whole batch of FBI material which the Senate foreign relations committee has not yet been able to see. Reports today that the Justice Department, after months of refusal, would now hand the material to the Senate staff have not yet been confirmed.

An assertion by Congressman Joshua Ellberg, of the Judiciary committee, that this fresh material is "proof positive" that Dr. Kissinger has lied is contested by other members. Congressman Don Edwards, a California Democrat, declared that "in all fairness," there was no reason to believe that Dr. Kissinger actually signed any orders. No one has suggested there is.

For all that, documents published in facsimile today do not help Dr. Kissinger's case. The *Washington Post* has a top secret

memorandum dated May 13, 1970—one year after this programme started—signed by Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, then director of the FBI. It states:

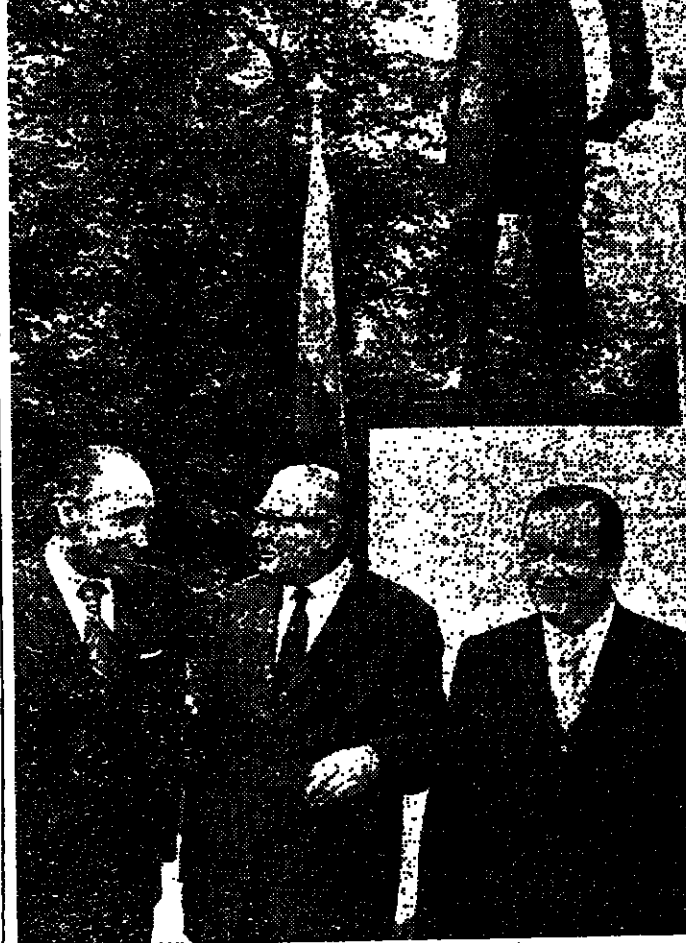
"On May 12, 1970, Brigadier General Alexander M. Haig of the National Security Council staff advised that Dr. Henry A. Kissinger of the White House staff had requested that as soon as possible a telephone surveillance be instituted on the home of K of the National Security Council staff."

Mr. Hoover notes that a survey determines this to be "feasible," and he suggests to Mr. Kissinger that if you approve, this installation will be placed by this bureau. The memorandum is countersigned: "Approved, John N. Mitchell."

General Haig at that time was Dr. Kissinger's senior assistant at the White House. The significance of this memorandum is that Dr. Kissinger has always maintained he was only the supplier of names, not the initiator of wiretaps. That is not necessarily at variance with the memorandum, but will have to be tested by the new review.

A further FBI memorandum of May, 1973, prepared while Mr. William Ruckelshaus was acting director, says: "It appears that the project of placing electronic surveillance at the request of the White House had its beginning in a telephone call to Mr. J. Edgar Hoover on May 9, 1969, from Dr. Henry Kissinger."

Leading article, page 19



The statue of Bolívar unveiled in Belgrave Square yesterday. Mr. Callaghan is flanked (left) by the sculptor, Senor Hugo Dalm, and Dr. Rafael Caldera, former President of Venezuela.

Statue to Bolívar in London

By a Staff Reporter

Simón Bolívar, soldier, statesman and liberator of a great part of Spanish America, now has a permanent niche in a fashionable London square. Mr. Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday unveiled a bronze statue to Bolívar in the presence of a gathering of Latin American statesmen.

The statue, designed and executed in Caracas, is a gift from the six countries Bolívar freed from Spanish rule: Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Peru and Venezuela. It was unveiled yesterday in Belgrave Square, a gift from the six countries Bolívar freed from Spanish rule: Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Peru and Venezuela. It was unveiled yesterday in Belgrave Square, a gift from the six countries Bolívar freed from Spanish rule: Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Peru and Venezuela.

During his visit to London in 1810, he had found enormous admiration and inspiration. From his house in Grosvenor Street (now Grosvenor Way) he had made contact with fellow Latin Americans and they had been profoundly influenced by Bolívar's regard for liberty and justice.

Bolívar symbolised the highest ideals of Latin America. Dr. Callaghan said that Bolívar was one of the great formative spirits of the modern age.

to remind Londoners of the moral and military backing Britain gave Latin America in its struggle for independence.

In an address to an audience that included the Speaker, Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, and Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Dr. Rafael Caldera, former president of Venezuela, said Bolívar had recommended British constitutional forms to the emerging independent states.

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Bolívar symbolised the highest ideals of Latin America. Dr. Callaghan said that Bolívar was one of the great formative spirits of the modern age.

Perón resignation is withdrawn after rally

Buenos Aires, June 12—President Perón today withdrew his threat to resign after tens of thousands of cheering supporters massed in front of Government House.

The three million-strong General Labour Confederation and the parallel "62 organisations" labour unions issued the strike order shortly after the 78-year-old leader spoke of an orchestrated campaign against his Government.

Workers immediately left their jobs and poured into the Plaza de Mayo square in front of Government House in answer to a union call for a mass demonstration to support President Perón.

In a broadcast the President referred to political and economic problems besetting Argentina and said "something abnormal" was happening in the country.

General Perón, who became President last October for his third term after nearly 18 years in office, referred specifically to political in-fighting within the broadly based Peronist movement and to economic troubles which have snowballed in the past few weeks.

"We could be approaching a bloody struggle which some senseless people are trying to provoke and which we wish to avoid by all means," President Perón said.

"When I came to this country it was to drive and not to promote 'disunity' among Argentines," he said.

"If I find that this sacrifice is in vain I will not hesitate one instant in testing this position to someone who can occupy it with better possibilities."

Since President Perón's return to power his movement has been split in bitter struggles between the radical wing and the conservative wing, who are chiefly identified with the conservative trade union bureaucracy.

But the growing cracks in the "social pact" appear the main cause for concern at the moment. The pact, agreed last year between the Government, employers and trade unions to hold down wages and prices had succeeded in reducing inflation and ensuring economic stability until last March.

Then, police wearing bullet-proof vests and carrying rifles, ordered a "rebellious" crowd to drop its weapons. He gave up without a struggle.

Several hundred neighbours cheered as Avila Kissinger was carried to an ambulance at the end of a drama that began on Monday night when the gunman, who had been a lodger of the Kissingers, drew a gun in an argument. The quarrel was started by the lodger's advances to Mrs. Kissinger.

—AP

Plea for Vietnam held in Hongkong

By Our Diplomatic Staff

Mr. Martin Ennals, general of Amnesty International, yesterday Lord Gornoway-Robert Under-Foreign Office, in an appeal for the deportation of South Vietnamese South Vietnamese.

The 119 men, who children were picked off off Hongkong. Many of them are men of age trying to avoid the South Vietnamese forces. The children are under their families.

Mr. Ennals said, appealed to the Hong British Governments to decision about deporta each individual case reviewed on human grounds "to determine whether asylum in Hongkong is justified elsewhere is justified."

He added that he was encouraged by Lord Robert's comprehensive "problem" and felt the quest would be met.

Mr. Ennals said that the Hongkong Government was responsible for the immigration policy. There were "major" and "social problems" but Amnesty International particularly concerned the fate of the 119 people returned to South Vietnam.

Mr. Ennals gave Gornoway-Robert's report of the report of the South Vietnamese Government's practice of detaining and punishing political prisoners in South Vietnam, published last year, documents the South Vietnamese Government's practice of detaining and punishing political prisoners in South Vietnam.

Mr. Ennals also s Amnesty International approaches to other means with a view to being granted to those who were claiming it as a political prisoner. It is under the governments conce those of the New Sweden, France and A.

The Foreign Office foreign news agency re Sir Murray MacLehose nor of Hongkong, in a statement on Tuesday, had seen Mr. Callaghan Foreign Secretary, at case yesterday. It was, however, that Sir would be seeing him London while he is here.

Cairo greeting indicates swing to US

Continued from page 1

enthusiastic cries of "Nixon, Nixon, you are welcome."

The welcome was symbolic of the way in which the United States, until the October War, has bounced back in the Arab world since then. Mr. Nixon's visit is the first to Egypt by an American president since Franklin Roosevelt was here in 1943 for the Cairo Conference.

As Mr. Nixon's aircraft Spirit of 76 touched down, a 21-gun salute rang out and President Sadat strode with his attractive wife to greet the Nixon. After the Egyptian Army band had played "The Star Spangled Banner" and the Egyptian national anthem, the two Presidents inspected a guard of honour. Then Mr. and Mrs. Nixon were introduced to a long line of Egyptian Cabinet Ministers and the Egyptian Army Command.

As the Presidential procession moved into the streets, cheering

crowds broke through the first police cordon. Armed police formed a human chain and the more exuberant well-wishers.

Those who had missed Mr. Nixon at the airport clambered on to buses, cars and motor cycles to follow the procession, driving wildly up the wrong side of the double carriageway. What ever organized greeting there was for Mr. Nixon developed into a rollicking affair that looked very much like Egyptian spontaneity.

Most Egyptians agreed that the welcome accorded to Mr. Nixon was warmer than that for Mr. Khrushchev when he had visited Egypt a decade earlier.

Clearly the mood in Egypt was ripe for the visit. Ever since the October War, he has been hailed here as a great victory, the Egyptians have welcomed the new relaxed political atmosphere and the steady shift towards the United States.

However, beneath the expressions of gratitude and affection

for President Nixon for his Middle East policy, there were also the reminders of what is expected of him. The cautioning note was that while progress has been achieved, this is only the first step towards a complete Middle East solution.

Hence Mr. Nixon's remarks on his arrival have been hailed here as a sign that his visit is not concerned only with political cosmetics. President Sadat outlined what he considers as America's role in his welcoming speech. The role of the United States under the leadership of President Nixon is vital to promote peace and tranquillity in the area," he said.

"It is a great challenge, but I am convinced that with good will and determination, statesmen of the stature of President Nixon are able to meet it. The challenge is whether to substitute this precarious situation of cease-fire by a just and durable peace."

—AP

J. E. ENGLAND & SONS (WELLINGTON) LIMITED

The 21st Annual General Meeting was held on 5th June, 1974, at Wellington, Shropshire.

In its circulated statement, the Chairman, Mr. J. R. England, referred to the turnover of £5,552,433, which was an increase of nearly 25% on the previous record. However, overheads continued to increase and profits were adversely affected by the lack of buoyancy in the Potato Market.

The Group pre-tax profit for 1973 was £144,206 compared with £170,402 for 1972.

The Chairman stated he would not attempt to forecast results for 1974. The Potato business will be affected by the inflation of operating costs, the earlier ban on the export of wet potatoes and poor trading conditions to date.

During 1973 the trading base of the Group had been widened to include Grain and Fruit and Vegetables. Although margins are lower in these new areas, volume is increasing satisfactorily and it is hoped that the diversification will make a useful contribution to profits in the current year.

The Directors believe that the Company is now in a stronger position, being no longer restricted to trading in one commodity.

DRAWING OF BONDS

CHILEAN GOVERNMENT 8% STERLING LOAN OF 1922

MORGAN GRENFIELD & CO. LIMITED hereby give notice that a Drawing of Bonds of the above loan will be held on 13th June, 1974, at 10.15 a.m. at the offices of the Company, 15, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4N 3DF, and the following Bonds were drawn for redemption:

24 BONDS OF £100 NOMINAL CAPITAL EACH—NUMBERS

78 361 1339 2393 3136 3873 4493 5183 5833 6523

20 BONDS OF £50 NOMINAL CAPITAL EACH—NUMBERS

5708 5971 6273 6769 7233 7685 8040 8333 8633 8933

21 BONDS OF £20 NOMINAL CAPITAL EACH—NUMBERS

9539 9733 10037 10603 11038 11523 11958 12443 12878 13313

WITNESSES: E. F. C. Baker, Notary Public.

Each of the above Bonds was presented for redemption at the office of Morgan Grenfield & Co. Limited on or before the date of the drawing, and all such Bonds were duly redeemed.

Less of current and outstanding drawn bonds are available from Morgan Grenfield & Co. Limited, Registered Department, 4 Throgmorton Avenue, London, EC2P 2NA.

13th June, 1974.

LEGAL NOTICES

THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948 in the Matter of SASHA FILMS Limited.

WINDING-UP ORDER MADE 13th May 1974.

DATES AND PLACE OF FIRST MEETINGS.

CONTRIBUTORIES on the same day.

CONTRIBUTORIES on the same day.

CONTRIBUTORIES on the same day.

CONTRIBUTORIES on the same day.

LEGAL NOTICES

In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

Chancery Division in the Matter of J. E. ENGLAND & SONS Limited

Notice is hereby given that a PETITION was presented to the Court of Justice for the CONFIRMATION of the above-mentioned COMPANIES ACT, 1948, in the Matter of J. E. ENGLAND & SONS Limited.

And notice is further given that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Honourable Mr. Justice Goff on the 14th day of June 1974.

Any Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to object to the confirmation of the said Petition should do so by filing a written statement of objection with the Registrar of Companies at Companies House, 20, Victoria Street, London, W.1, on or before the 14th day of June 1974.

A copy of the said Petition and of the written statement of objection, if any, shall be sent to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of June 1974.

Dated the 11th day of June 1974.

JOHN MICHAEL CAMPBELL & ASSOCIATES, 21, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4N 3DF, Solicitors for the said Company.

In the Matter of DIPLOTEX Limited and in the Matter of the Companies Act, 1948.

Notice is hereby given that the CREDITORS of the above-named COMPANY, which is being VOLUNTARILY WOUND UP, are to meet on the 14th day of July 1974, at 10.15 a.m., at the offices of the undersigned, to consider the proposed Liquidator and to consider the proposed Liquidator's statement of assets and liabilities.

And notice is further given that the said Liquidator's statement of assets and liabilities shall be filed with the Registrar of Companies at Companies House, 20, Victoria Street, London, W.1, on or before the 14th day of July 1974.

A copy of the said statement of assets and liabilities shall be sent to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of July 1974.

Dated the 11th day of June 1974.

JOHN MICHAEL CAMPBELL & ASSOCIATES, 21, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4N 3DF, Solicitors for the said Company.

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DIVIDEND NOTICES

(also on page 25)

CANADIAN PACIFIC LIMITED (Incorporated in Canada)

Notice is hereby given that the following dividends have been declared:

ORDINARY CAPITAL STOCK

A dividend of ten cents per share on the ordinary capital stock of the company, payable on or after the 15th day of July 1974, to the holders of the said stock as of the 1st day of July 1974.

And notice is further given that the said dividend shall be paid to the holders of the said stock as of the 1st day of July 1974.

A copy of the said dividend statement shall be sent to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of July 1974.

Dated the 11th day of June 1974.

JOHN MICHAEL CAMPBELL & ASSOCIATES, 21, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4N 3DF, Solicitors for the said Company.

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PROPERTY also on pages 30 and 31

COUNTRY PROPERTIES

FIFE COUNTRY COTTAGE

WITH UP TO 3 ACRES

Cottage built on the 1930s, situated in a beautiful garden, with a large garden, and a large garden.

And notice is further given that the said cottage shall be sold to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of July 1974.

A copy of the said cottage statement shall be sent to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of July 1974.

Dated the 11th day of June 1974.

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ERSEAS

AU meeting opens th Waldheim assage of hope

dislu, June 12.—Leaders of African countries met for the 10th annual conference of the Organisation of African Unity to approve a series of resolutions which called for the independence of the colonies and the end of apartheid in South Africa.

Dr Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations, said at the meeting that the first time there was a chance for Africa to achieve full independence.

He said that the resolutions deal with the question of the continent's last 10 years, but also cover the effect of the oil crisis on African economies and the environment of the seabed.

Dr Waldheim said that the resolutions called on "proclaim unequivocally the recognition of the inalienable right of the people of Mozambique, Angola, Cape Verde Islands, Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tome to independence."

Another welcomed the current talks between Portugal and the liberation groups and said: "The OAU encourages the parties concerned to continue the talks with a view to an early end to the conflicts."

The OAU condemned Britain for taking part in "clandestine talks" with Rhodesian leaders, France and other NATO countries for helping white governments in southern Africa to "prepare to put up a last-ditch struggle against decolonisation," and Spain for its continued administration of the Canary Islands.

Dr Waldheim said in an interview with the Somali News Agency that he had established contact with Dr Mario Soares, the Portuguese Foreign Minister, but that they had not exchanged views on the future of Portuguese African empire.

He added he felt for the first time there was a real chance the colonies would get independence in the foreseeable future.—UPI.

Savory 'would have n black terrorist'

Correspondent June 12.—Savory, the former Rhodesian Party, if he had been born a Muslim he would be a He also told a party that the demand of a new leader of the National Council, for a party was also reasonable.

He said that as long as the constitution, no matter how many black voters there were, they could not affect the government. What Rhodesia needed was a return to the common roll. The alternative was civil war.

The whole American Army could not restore order in Rhodesia because the country's battle was political, Mr Savory said. "You don't fight an idea with force. You fight it with a better idea. You cannot beat communism with racialism."

Four more guerrillas have been killed in security forces in the past six days, bringing to 322 the total killed in the past 18 months during Rhodesia's border war.

A government statement added that four black civilians, three of them women, were killed and a boy seriously injured in a landmine blow up, a lorry in the north-eastern border yesterday. Guerrillas also shot a black civilian.

ges held treans on 'trial'

June 12.—Eritrean holding four American Canadians are planning to leave their hostilities in Addis Ababa, all oil prospectors, "exploiting all resources" of northern Eritrea. The sources said in a television.

Four more hostages were taken for the Texas-based 1 Co began negotiations. The hostages and sent to pick them up on the second helicopter into guerrilla hands.

Whitlam says voting m will be changed

Correspondent June 12.—Mr Whitlam, the Prime Minister, said legislation is being introduced to provide for optional voting to replace the compulsory system. The voter to fill in only as many as he wants to vote on the ballot were seats to be at past the post.

Mr Whitlam said that the optional system had been used by the extra-parliamentary group of counting the votes on May 1 had the most content of voting in the am announced that a permanent advisory s to be appointed to investigate all foreign investment proposals.

Explaining the new economic responsibilities of Dr Jim Cairns, the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam said he would have authority over the Priorities Review Staff which makes regular strategic reviews of Government programmes. Dr Cairns would be able to order special inquiries into any area of expenditure. He would also control the new Adjustment Assistance Agency which would distribute Government money to firms affected by structural changes in the economy.

Dr Cairns would remain as Minister for Overseas Trade, but Mr Whitlam himself would retain control over the Industries Assistance Commission for some time.

Mr Whitlam said he had agreed that the Priorities Review Staff could be made Dr Cairns' responsibility because this would enable him to be concerned with the Government's expenditure priorities.

ralian envoy snubbed hinese officials

Bonavia June 12.—The Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC) will show the controversial documentary despite warnings from Mr Wang Kuochuan, the Chinese Ambassador, that the friendship between Australia and China could be harmed if it is shown.

An ABC spokesman said today that the film China would be shown on July 1, and he did not foresee any change in this arrangement.

Mr Wang, who has appealed to Mr Douglas McClelland, the Australian Media Minister, to ban the documentary, said: "The film tries very hard to smear China, slander our leaders and insult the Chinese people."

"We detest it very much and it is shown it will be harmful to understanding and friendship between our two peoples," Reuters.

Members of the information department of what they call anti-Chinese come Australian press action is also related to the showing on Australian of the documentary China made by a Montreal in bitterly denounced the film in the council.

Mr Wang said today his head of the information department, who told him it was not aimed at a Government.

Seventy nations take part in a 100-day scrutiny of the world's 'heat engine'

Huge weather watch begins this weekend

From Alan McGregor Geneva, June 12.

A big effort to fill in some of the gaps in weather forecasting begins on Saturday, with some 70 nations participating.

It is the Atlantic tropical experiment of the Global Atmospheric Research Programme. The experiment is known for short as GATE. The weather and associated phenomena over a third of the Earth's tropical belt, including a large area of the Atlantic Ocean, will be kept under close observation for a period of 100 days.

About 40 ships—described as the largest international fleet ever assembled for peaceful purposes—13 instrumented research aircraft, an advance geostationary satellite of the United States and several polar orbiting satellites from the

Soviet Union and the United States comprise the basic equipment.

The operations control centre is at Dakar airport.

The tropical area has been selected because of the location there of the "heat engine" that drives the world's weather, most of the heat received from the sun being stored in the upper layers of the tropical oceans.

From there, it is transferred to the atmosphere largely by evaporation of water and then transported upward by vertical air currents in convective cloud systems.

The purpose of GATE is to investigate this complex tropical mechanism, at present insufficiently understood, and so open the way to more accurate longer-range weather prediction.

Dr Basile J. Mason, director-general of the British Meteorological Office, said at a press conference yesterday that at present services such as those in the United States and Britain were forecasting weather up to three days ahead for the whole of the northern hemisphere.

"We think that if we want to do five or seven days ahead, we shall have to forecast for the whole of the globe, including the tropical regions," he said.

These are particularly important, because the big thunderstorm systems in the tropics pump vast quantities of heat and moisture from the tropics up into the atmosphere and towards the poles, and we believe that this is such an important mechanism that unless we take this fully into account, we shall not be able to forecast the weather, even for temperate latitudes, more than a few days ahead."

US offers to mediate in the Aegean

Istanbul, June 12.—The American ambassador told Mr Turan Gunes, the Turkish Foreign Minister, that America was ready to mediate in the Greek-Turkish quarrel over their territorial water limits, the mass circulation Hurriyet reported today.

The newspaper added that in another meeting the Soviet ambassador told the Foreign Minister that while the Soviet Union was in favour of territorial waters being fixed at 12 nautical miles it wanted to see the difference between the two countries settled peacefully. He also emphasized that there should be no threat to free navigation in the territorial waters.

The independent Milliyet reported that the United States ambassador had expressed to the Foreign Minister the concern of the United States Congress over Turkey's intention of again authorizing the cultivation of opium poppies.

Mr Gunes replied that the Turkish Government was studying the question and that if resumption of poppy growing was authorized an efficient control system would be established.

Agence France Presse.

Solzhenitsyn accuses apologists of 'red terror'

Paris, June 12.—In the second volume of *The Gulag Archipelago*, the exiled Soviet author, accuses Bernard Russell of having acted as an apologist for Soviet slave labour camps.

The 700-page indictment of the slave labour system was published in Russian here today by YMCA Press. In the book Mr Solzhenitsyn says that both the philosopher and Dr Hewlett Johnson, the "Red dean" of Canterbury, must have had some knowledge of the sufferings of slave labourers when they publicly defended the Soviet system.

The volume published today includes the third and fourth parts of Mr Solzhenitsyn's seven-part work on Soviet prisons. He decided to publish *The Gulag Archipelago* last year when a Leningrad woman hanged herself after being forced to tell Soviet secret police where a copy of the manuscript was hidden.

As in the first volume, the author blames Lenin for starting both the terror and slave labour. The first decision to create the "archipelago" of concentration camps was made on July 23, 1918, he writes.

A September, 1918, "decree on red terror" for which Lenin was also responsible, according to Mr Solzhenitsyn, ordered officials to guarantee the Soviet republic against class enemies by isolating them in concentration camps.—Agence France-Presse.

Huge hunt for killers of police chief

From Our Correspondent Kuala Lumpur, June 12

The police today distributed likenesses drawn from witnesses' descriptions of the two young men who murdered Mr Tan Sri Abdul Rahman Bin Hashim, the Inspector General of Police, last Friday. The drawings show that one killer was probably Chinese and the other probably Malay.

If the drawings are accurate and if the killers are still in Malaysia, it seems they must be caught in the biggest manhunt in Malaysia's history.

A reward of more than £40,000 has been offered for information leading to their arrest. Almost the entire police force has been alerted and hundreds of people have been questioned.

The police believe they have found the car the killers used and the shirts they wore, one yellow and one blue. Mr Mohamed Haniff Bin Omar, who is acting as inspector general, said: "We also want to get the men behind the hiring of these killers."

contrived to make propaganda out of every incident in which they have been involved.

Secret societies, Malaysia's most important criminal organizations, present a similar puzzle, because traditionally they are most careful to avoid clashing with the police. Now their members are under persistent scrutiny and questioning.

Possible personal and professional grudges against the inspector general are being investigated. He recently received two letters threatening his life.

Although his death must have caused many prominent Malaysians to fear for their safety, public life appears to be unaffected. No extra guards have been assigned to leading politicians.

"How could we work if we were surrounded by guards and bullet-proof glass?" one minister asked today. "Besides, an election is coming, and we have to keep in touch with the people."

The inspector general was not armed and his car had no police escort. Mr Mohamed Haniff Bin Omar said the inspector general felt he had to set an example, by risking his own life, to the men he sent on dangerous missions.

Envoy's attacker jailed

Bangkok, June 12.—A Thai man has been sentenced to 33 years imprisonment for attempting to rob and murder a British diplomat, Mr Christopher Hulce, last September.

Filipino troops kill guerrilla chief

Manila, June 12.—Mr Felix Salac, known as Commander Pelaez, the supreme Huk guerrilla leader, has been killed in an armed clash with government troops in Abucay.

Why you lose your temper while driving.

Most cars won't push up your blood pressure on an easy, uncluttered stretch of motorway.

It's when you're driving in heavy traffic that stress builds up.

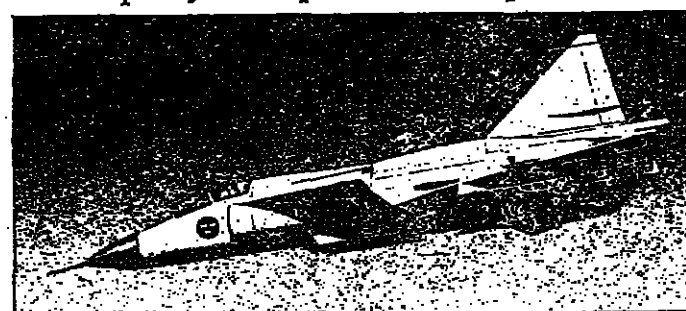
Other cars changing lanes, decisions at traffic lights and zebra crossings, the mad scramble at roundabouts, all contribute. Many drivers are also inwardly apprehensive about the safety of their cars.

So tempers build up, blood pressures rise, hearts beat faster, drivers swear.

We cannot claim that driving a Saab will immediately lower your blood pressure.

We can claim to lessen some of the irritability that comes with driving. For three reasons:

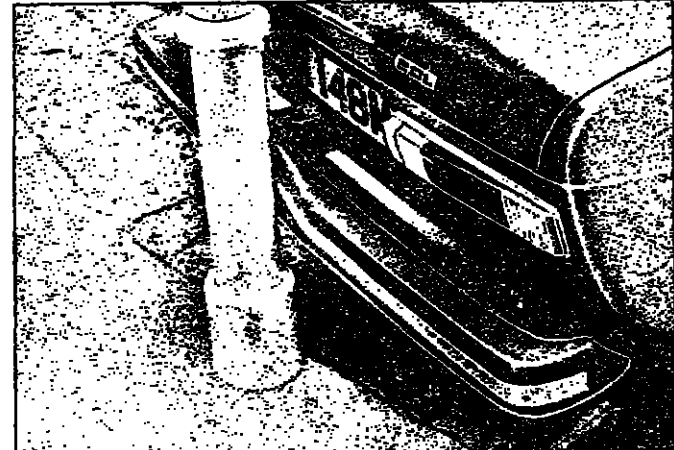
1. High-precision engineering from a company that produces supersonic



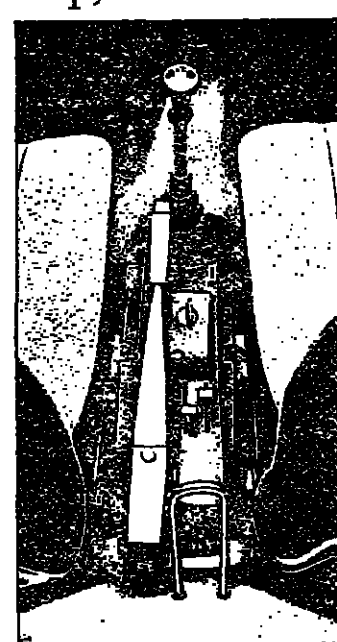
aircraft. To quote *Drive* magazine (Spring 1974): "...a very sweet-running front wheel drive unit that starts easily, idles faultlessly and, in top gear, pulls away effortlessly at low speeds."

2. Every Saab is packed full of safety features. (The first imported car to win the Don Safety Trophy.)

Step into that solid steel frame and



you're immediately reassured. The heavy bump-absorbing bumpers help, too.



3. The comfort makes things easier: well-sited ventilation and instrument controls, electrically heated driver's seat.

So here below is a prescription form for driving with less irritation.

Write it out for yourself. And take regularly for the next 11 years. (That's how long you could be driving the Saab you buy now*)

To: Saab (Gt. Britain) Ltd., Wellcroft Road, Slough, Bucks

Please send me free colour

booklets on:

Saab 99L ☐ Saab 99LE ☐

Saab 99EMS ☐

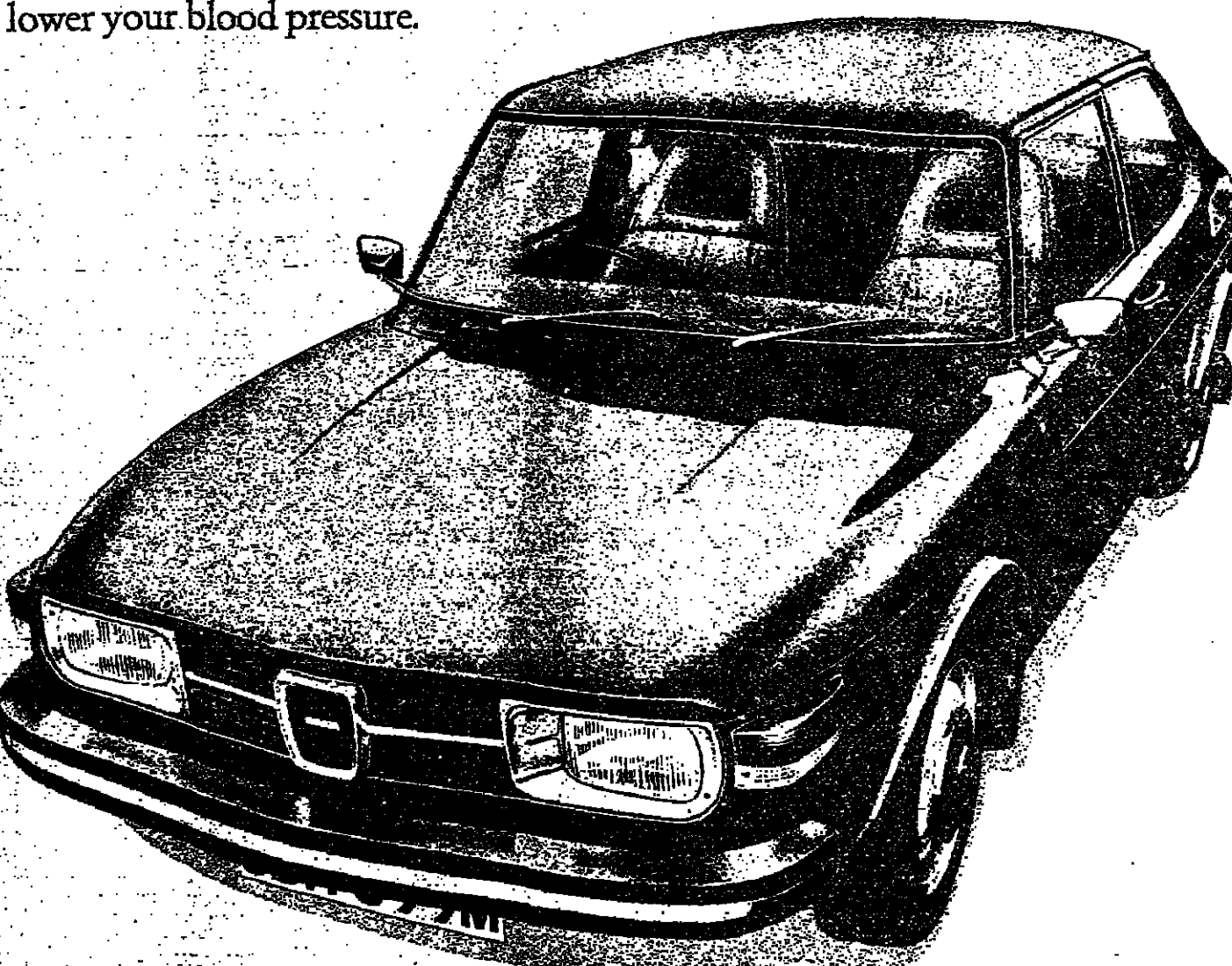
Name _____

Address _____

Tel. No. _____

Go swift. Go safe. Go Saab.

*Swedish Motor Vehicle Inspection Authority annual report 1973.



SAAB Saab 99L 2 litre 2 door or 4 door from £2092 Saab 99LE Automatic 2 litre 4 door £2490
Saab 99EMS Special 2 litre 2 door electronic manual in metallic silver with tinted glass and aluminium wheels £2572
Recommended retail prices ex-works including VAT, car tax and safety belts.

PARLIAMENT June 12, 1974

Retailers agree to concentrate price cuts on basic items: scheme to last until next March

House of Commons

MRS SHIRLEY WILLIAMS, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection (Hertford and Stevenage, Lab), made an statement on a voluntary agreement on prices of basic household items.

She said: As the House is aware, I have been concerned since my appointment to take action to reduce the rate of inflation. To this end, I have introduced subsidies on certain foodstuffs. The cuts that have been made in retailers' gross margin reference levels (which will in practice mean considerably greater cuts in their net margins) have been considerable. Pressure on prices, both of food and other household goods, has been considerable.

The Prices Bill, which is currently before the House, includes powers which would enable me to reduce the prices of food and other items which are of major significance in the household budgets of those with low incomes. It will also enable me to set maximum retail selling prices for subsidised foodstuffs. Beyond this, however, I have made it clear that I would prefer not to have to make widespread use of these statutory powers, providing that objectives could be achieved by voluntary means.

I have explored with the Retail Consortium and other bodies the possibility of achieving my objectives by building on such existing trade practices as lower than average margins, frequent purchases, items, and special promotions. Without radical change in the conditions under which they trade, however, the turnover of £250,000 or above who are required to reduce their gross margin reference level by 10 per cent will be reduced on a list of basic items agreed between us. (See below.)

I have also asked them to extend their reduction by concen-

trating promotional cuts as far as possible on this agreed list, and by further adjusting margins between these basic items and some other goods.

The Retail Consortium, which represents a substantial majority of the retail trade, has agreed to recommend my proposition to its members. The voluntary group have also put proposals to me designed to meet my objectives, and I am grateful for their initiative. The special position of small traders is recognised in the exemption of those with a turnover of less than £250,000 from the per cent cut in the gross margin reference level, and to the scope for making reductions is less. But I have the assurance of those who have agreed to the scheme that their members will make reductions on this list though they will not be able to include them all.

It is only fair to add that it has been represented to me very strongly that a 10 per cent cut, followed by further cuts, is biting very deeply into the net margins of retailers, to the extent that they need to raise their prices already 25 per cent below the reference level. This was the safety net for net margins which the Government and the Retail Consortium and which retailers are entitled to take into account in their response to the scheme.

Nevertheless, it is agreed that the scheme should run until the end of March, 1975 (which the Government will include in Clause 2 of the Prices Bill), subject to earlier review if special circumstances arise.

It would be like to pay tribute to the retail trade for their cooperation at a particularly difficult time. It does mean the sacrifice of some of the net margins which they have built up, but they understand that this is commercially disadvantageous. Their response to my initiative is a sign of the battle against inflation. I have informed the retail trade that, as long as this

agreement is working satisfactorily, it will not be my intention to operate the powers of Clause 2 of the Prices Bill, except in relation to subsidised foodstuffs, since the objectives of this clause have been met by the agreement in place.

Food manufacturers have indicated their support for the scheme. In the case of many manufactured foodstuffs, it is the manufacturers who largely determine the price of the goods, and their promotional activity and they have undertaken, as far as possible, to concentrate this on basic items in the household budget, and to appreciate their cooperation. (This promotional list is also set out below.)

I believe this voluntary agreement will mean that low budget shopping baskets of basic goods more widely available. This should help in particular pensioners and other low-income families, for whom inflation is an especially severe scourge.

Items retailers will have on continuous offer will include:

Bread, standard 14oz and 28oz white and brown wrapped; Cheese, a low priced basic cheese; Butter, blended or other low priced butter; Baby milk, powdered; Flour, white self-raising and all brands; Eggs (one line); Bananas and Oranges (one line); Potatoes (maincrop) or one basic vegetable; Beef, one cut; Lamb, one cut; Pork, one cut; Chicken (up to 4lb) or chicken portions; Biscuits, one line of sweet, lower priced; Biscuits, one line of sweet, lower priced; Matches, one line; Toilet soap, one line; Toothpaste and denture powder, popular size, one line.

Items on which retailers will concentrate their promotional activity:

Sausages (standard lines); Cooking oil, cooking fat and lard; Margarine; Tea (cheaper lines); Breakfast cereals (standard lines); Fish fingers (standard lines); Instant coffee; Baby and infant foods (packets, tins and jars); Baked beans; and Soups (canned).

The conclusion that a voluntary agreement may be a better way to achieve it there were some indications of the Government's intention to bring this about. That intention was expressed in a speech on the subject of inflation in the House of Commons on 12 June.

MRS SILVERSTEIN (Manchester, Whithorn, C)—What estimate has Mrs Williams made of the number of shops which will be affected by this agreement which would not be available beforehand?

MRS WILLIAMS—Mrs Silverstein misunderstands the purpose of the voluntary agreement which is to concentrate the promotional budget on those items regarded as essential to the household. It is not to spread it across a wide range of items, some of which are in the luxury or semi-luxury class. An aim, saying the promotional budget will be increased above normal.

MRS GWILYM ROBERTS (Cardiff, Lab)—Labour MPs give a vote of confidence to the Government. Will she assure us that if there is any shilly-shallying by retailers, the Government will not hesitate to use her powers to control the price concerned?

MRS WILLIAMS—I repeat that the currency of this agreement, which is intended to last until March 1975, is the same as the currency of the Bill. It is seen by me to be an alternative to the Bill but not necessarily a replacement of it.

MRS SAINSBURY (Hove, C)—The term "promotional budget" is not normally used by retailers. It is a term used by accountants and distributors. To talk about concentrating the promotional budget on some special offers is not, therefore, a realistic statement. But largely it would be retailers' normal practice to concentrate their special offers in those areas which are the most difficult to sell. I am asking retailers only to continue with normal practice.

By requiring special offers to be restricted to a limited range of goods, the Government runs the risk of breaking down the connexion between supply and demand and bringing the possibility of shortages of goods into the picture. This is the reason Sir G. Howe did not proceed with this proposal.

MRS WILLIAMS—There is a distinction between the list of manufacturers' promotional items and the list of items which retailers will have on continuous offer. On the second point, there are hazards in anything one does but there are greater hazards in doing nothing. It is a simple matter to say that the Government has not been so easy to get this agreement as to suggest there was nothing new in it at all. There are difficulties. The goal is a considerable one.

MR SILKIN—Of course something must be done. One must do it with what weapons and tools one has available. At the moment this is the rate support grant.

This situation has arisen from four factors: the greatest inflation and the highest interest rates in our history; the reorganisation of local government; and the reorganisation of water and sewerage.

The Opposition parties, during the term of the last government, warned what would happen, and it has happened. I am grateful to have inherited the chaos.

MR BIFFEN (Oswestry, C)—The size and style of domestic residences is increasingly unrelated to the taxpaying capacity of the occupants. Is it his hope that the studies which are in prospect will bring about reforms which will take cognizance of that?

MR SILKIN—There have been studies before, and there was a famous Green Paper not so long ago. It was rather a shambles. There seemed to be so many possibilities on this.

MR SILKIN—There is a case for saying that we do need to consider the whole system again.

MR PARDOE (North Cornwall, Lab)—The present crisis in local government is a direct result of the original lunacy of reorganising local government while at the same time not reorganising it.

MR TOMLINSON (Maidenhead, Lab)—Something has to be done before next year—cheese!—because we have got a situation where the rate of inflation is of the order of 56 per cent, which some of our constituents have to bear, of completely intolerable in this type of economic crisis.

Conservative attempt to protect small shopkeeper rejected

House of Lords

Lady Horsburgh-Smith, the former Conservative MP, Dame Patricia Horsburgh-Smith, was introduced.

The EARL OF LONGFORD, calling attention to the problem of small shopkeepers and the need for reform, said there were far too many people in the retail trade, even assuming the present high rate of crime. Too many people were being put to prison, and minor offenders in particular, and the way of obtaining the best value for consumers was to maximize competition. No amount of orders by the Secretary of State would be any more than a band-aid on a bleeding wound.

MR GORST (Barnet, Hendon, North, C) said the new clause was conceived, not as a measure to improve the Bill, but as a desperate attempt to give a lease of life to small traders, many of whom must go to the wall without it.

MR JOHN FRASER, Under Secretary for Employment (North, C) said the Government had no intention of driving small shopkeepers into bankruptcy or insolvency.

We are not (he said) of the view that the small shopkeepers and the consumer and intend to achieve a fair balance between them. It would be a mistake to suppose that the Government would be any more than a band-aid on a bleeding wound.

MR CORMACK (South-West, Staffordshire, C) said the future of the village shop and corner shop was at stake. When these shops were kept by elderly people, receiving far less than the national average wage, yet providing an essential community service.

MR GRABHAM (Exeter, Devon, C) said the small shopkeeper was the big shopkeeper and the natural competitive element to which the Conservatives paid so much attention.

MR HOOSON (Montgomeryshire, Lab) said he supported the new clause. The small shopkeeper was the big shopkeeper and the natural competitive element to which the Conservatives paid so much attention.

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Some small shopkeepers provided smaller sizes of items and single items instead of bulk purchases. That was what the pensioners sought to buy.

There should be exceptional treatment for a sector of the retail trade under increasing pressure.

MR GOW (Eastbourne, C) said the way of obtaining the best value for consumers was to maximize competition. No amount of orders by the Secretary of State would be any more than a band-aid on a bleeding wound.

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Home Secretary wants civilized and rational penal system

House of Lords

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MR HOOSON (Montgomeryshire, Lab) said he supported the new clause. The small shopkeeper was the big shopkeeper and the natural competitive element to which the Conservatives paid so much attention.

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establishment would produce a more natural environment and remove some of the dangers of an enforced domestic situation. It could not be the best for men and women in prison to earn a full wage for the work they did, thus making discharge grants unnecessary.

Of the 50,000 men released each year it was estimated that 10,000 were homeless. Why were they to do? Again, and again, they ended up in the streets. It would be possible to make a prisoner independent when he came out on release. There ought to be a small fund to help him get on his feet. He could live for a week or two until he had secured.

LADY SHARPLES, in a maiden speech, said many prison governors were not interested in the rehabilitation of prisoners. At the moment, when on supplementary benefit on receipt of visiting orders, they were not interested in the rehabilitation of prisoners. The orders and payments should be sent by the governor direct to the prisoner. It was a great deal of time, worry and paperwork.

If the government felt these extra visits were necessary, it should appear from all accounts that they did, then wherever the wife's income was, these two-weekly visits should be given. It was when visiting orders were granted. The orders and payments should be sent by the governor direct to the prisoner. It was a great deal of time, worry and paperwork.

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VISCOUNT COLVILLE (Ross, C) said the Government must ensure that before any sentence was passed, the probation was ready for it.

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The Evangelical improver

William Wilberforce
By Robin Furneaux

(Hamish Hamilton, 15)
"Say what you like," observed Charles II of Calvinism, "it is no religion for a gentleman." Well, we know what he meant. The social meaning has left the prejudice, in an age when TV celebrities and Irish peers are once again on the side of the angels, but there remains the feeling, now as always, that the wicked are more fun than the righteous. There is no one more forbidding than your canny prig, and nobody more difficult to like, in my book anyway, than your thoroughly-going, high-minded, liberally-instructed, Guardian-reading philanthropist.

William Wilberforce was, I suppose, the archetype of the Evangelical improver, later to become so powerful and so baleful a figure of the Victorian scene, and like many another lesser reprobate I have always viewed his saintly reputation warily. I do not like his sappy face. I cannot easily warm to a man who believed the theatre to be innately wicked, and whose honeymoon consisted of a tour of Evangelical primary schools in Somerset. I remember that nauseating moment in the House of Commons when Wilberforce, unnecessarily intervening in an affair of State probity, effectively destroyed

his lifelong friend and benefactor, William Pitt.
It is the triumph of Mr Furneaux's magnificent new biography that it will give even the most irresponsible among us, even the least hopeful of Salvation, second thoughts about Wilberforce. There is no need to preach to us, of course, about the man's achievements. The abolition of the slave trade seems to me the grandest achievement of British policy, and the noblest memorial any politician could seek. In countless other spheres of goodness, public and private, from the foundation of the RSPCA to the protection of boy chimney sweeps, Wilberforce played a supremely honourable role. But it is not the saintliness of saints that puts off the sceptical, it is their piety. The Evangelicals themselves gave this word its pejorative undertone, still between those who honour it in its old meaning, and those who (like me) sneer at it in its new.

The point about Wilberforce, though, is that he preceded piety. Evangelical Christianity had not solidified in his day. It was still fluid, exciting, vivacious, even humorous. Though his spiritual conversion was so to colour the 19th century, Wilberforce remained all his life a man of the 18th: a volatile, companionable, entertaining man, Jeffersonian in the range of his interests, whose friends were worldly as often as they were holy, whose love of litera-

ture defeated even his disapproving zeal, who sang delightfully, and whose domestic life was a marvellous muddle of religion, wit and hospitality. Nearly everybody who met Wilberforce, it seems, even the most prejudiced, was won over by his charm. While for me this is sufficient recommendation in itself, for more radical critics it may be less than conclusive. Wilberforce did have double values. He was passionately for the liberty of distant slaves, and our countrymen for the coercion of local peasants. He was always bland in public argument, sometimes vehement in private commentary. He objected to the Sunday drilling of volunteers at a time when the Grand Army was massing for invasion, but was easily persuaded that the pre-emptive bombardment of Copenhagen was decreed by divine providence in the British behalf.

In short, like most people whose biographies are worth writing, he was a figure of contradiction. Mr Furneaux almost won me over to the Saints, so urbane and witty is his own narrative, so complete and balanced his analysis. But say what you will, I can never be quite converted to a man who, in the interests of his damned principles, broke his own best friend upon the wheel of righteousness, and left Pitt the magnificent in tears across the floor of the House.

Jan Morris

Michael Racciford is on holiday.

Operation Seafarer

The Seabirds of Britain and Ireland

By Stanley Cramp,
W. R. P. Bourne and
David Saunders

(Collins, £3.50)

Two points are entirely pertinent to this book: Britain and Ireland provide the most important breeding places for seabirds in the north-east Atlantic; and our seabirds are excellent sensitive indicators of ecological danger (oil spills, toxic waste, marine abuse). These two facts gave rise to Operation Seafarer of 1969-70. How could we know if we were doing well for our birds, and how could we know if some species was suddenly slumping in numbers, if we did not have an efficient count of our breeding pairs to act as a base line? Seafarer was that count, and this book sums it up for us.

There are three chapters on the biology, hazards and changing fortunes of seabirds, but the bulk of the text deals individually with the 24 species now nesting every year in Britain and Ireland. There are also supporting maps, one for each species showing their main breeding areas, and a wealth of more material in a fat appendix. In many ways the whole work is a furtherable addition to the bird book, so active in his own gannet and fulmar surveys, who chaired the committee that led to this most monumental count.

The book is therefore about the million pairs of seabirds found in breeding here, and whose presence, in such particular charm and fascination to the coastline. The number is not great, in that British blackbirds, house sparrows and chaffinches are each thought to total about 10 million individuals, but these seabirds would be our seashore without that incredible plunge of the gannet, the aerobatics of the tern, or even the ordinary cry of the ordinary gull? I suspect people may buy this book, but could never be tempted to acquire a similar work about a selection of land-based birds. They might not be able to tell a shag from a cormorant, but they would want to. Our seabirds have a strong hold upon our island attitudes.

These three chapters to this book, alas, it bears, for me at least, the heavy-footed imprint of committee prose. The opening chapters, in particular, plod wearily through their exciting facts. All those Latin names and bracketed authorities help to congeal; they are worthy but unwelcome in introductory material. The word "charadriiformes" suddenly appears on the third page of the book itself, leaving the uninitiated among us to wonder which species come within its compass. The seabirds is said to be for the general reader; well, then, it should have been more general. As for the eight pages of photographs they are a dull lot for such a visual subject.

However, I am delighted that Operation Seafarer took place, and am happy that so much of its gathered information is now generally available. Incidentally I do not remember encountering the definition of a seabird species in this book—the group does not include many birds we see beside the sea, such as oystercatchers. But most certainly there is the heartening news that few of our seabirds are declining. Except for the little tern and the three auks, the guillemot, razorbill and puffin. With luck, by drawing attention to their plight, this book may help to better their ill-fortunes. And I cannot imagine any more of these three auks being more rapaciously received by them.

Anthony Smith



Patrick White

Short stories

The Cockatoos

By Patrick White

(Cape, £2.50)

Individually and together these six magnificent stories and short novels in *The Cockatoos* shine with Patrick White's feeling for the immensities and comings of every life. They are set in Australia, Egypt, Athens and Sicily, and his technical virtuosity, tautly controlled, surpasses even the best of his novels which won him the Nobel Prize for literature last year. There is no other writing in English that meets so directly the selected, jaunty, and of roughly the past three decades.

Captive people and their real and dream flights towards less captivity recur throughout this book. A dream of subjugation and progressiveness, sometimes tempted to acquire a similar work about a selection of land-based birds. They might not be able to tell a shag from a cormorant, but they would want to. Our seabirds have a strong hold upon our island attitudes.

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He winds up wonderfully with *The Cockatoos*. Here is an Irish immigrant in Sydney who hasn't spoken a word to his wife for seven years. They keep a communal pad to jot down essential exchanges, though eventually a mob of cockatoos brings out more in everyone.

Cockatoos, Mr White writes, are slapdash birds. His imagery isn't. Because of his devotion to the primordial, the unexpected and the continual, it seems worth remembering that cockatoos, now regarded as Australia's finest parrots, though once natives of Europe, are fascinating in their own right and only mimic their captors when caged by humans.

The retelling of his great novel *The Tree of Man* (Cape, £2.50) is highly welcome. An informative recent paperback, *Patrick White*, by Geoffrey Dutton (Oxford, 50p) is also still available. And Penguin's month reprint his first book of short stories, *The Power of One*, is a highly welcome. An informative recent paperback, *Patrick White*, by Geoffrey Dutton (Oxford, 50p) is also still available. And Penguin's month reprint his first book of short stories, *The Power of One*, is a highly welcome.

The collection begins with *A Woman's Hand*, a short novel, Harold Fazzackerley, a retired business manager, walks along the Sydney coastline beside his wife Evelyn, who can be said always to have been in retirement. You should walk more slowly, she says. They are spirits made by their time, says Mr White; and Harold Fazzackerley goes far to say that he has "kicked his hearting, prejudiced, workless childless and very moving wife what she is. He hankers for the supposed freedom and quiet of a former friend and she tries to take a hand in their future."

This story is told with loving wit so that our regard for all of them grows with each line; the outside human-watcher's view of them in the beginning gradually starts to blaze hopefully but is never bombarded as they express and enlarge their own small expectations.

Where people's thoughts, fantasies, conscious and unconscious spirit overwhelm their apparently uneventful lives, Patrick White transfers them to a woman's mind, drifts to past longings and she indulges her blousy emotions until all stops (including full stops) are pulled out.

His writing changes with his

Quick guide

Letters in Criticism, by F. R. Leavis; edited with an introduction by John Fowles (Chazco & Windus, £2.50). Dr Leavis has earned himself a place in the history of literary controversy, not because he favours the subliminal, but because his care about the crucial importance of the state of letters to regard to the health of the community has inspired him to write more complaints to the editor of his *Times* column. This present book collects some splendid stuff. Leavis's consistency in defending the idea of a university, his attacks on literary politicians, and his frank subscription to genius in the few modern places where he has found it, grace is to be found.

Sum Too Fast, by Sheila Fowles (Holt, £3.25). Lady Powercourt has chosen the framework of a journal of a year in her life to range backwards there are some unforgettable spine-chilling scenes from her childhood with a Spanish mother, she writes vividly about friendship with Sir Chester Beatty, Dr Margaret Murray and others, including with breathless awe, Harold and Vita Nicholson, and the archaeological forays in England and Greece. Devotees of Irish eccentricity and country life will relish her account of life at Powercourt, the family home in Wicklow, and of the portrait of a brave and intelligent woman.

Marie Curie, by Robert Reid (Collins, £4.50). Here are all the familiar elements of Marie Curie's story—immigrant background, marriage, ambition, marriage to Pierre Curie, and the fertilizing effect of his brilliance on her exceptional thoroughness, recognition, adulteration, tragic loss, and gradual transmutation of the tough "saint" into mother figure of French workers in industry and a kind of saint-extraneous for their use, and for research and medical purposes, the world over. Where *Marie Curie* is in his access to perspective; himself a chemist, he is a better equipped than most biographers to assess the blend of innocence and obstinacy that effectively blinded the Curies and their co-workers to the terrible immediate and distant side-effects of their discovery.

G. K. Chesterton: an Appendix, edited by John Sullivan (Paul Blake, £3). Chesterton's work is so diverse that a collection of critical articles might indeed best do justice to it. But while one or two of these pieces are serious though unsound (King'sley Ainslie on the novels), the rest are excellent. The general achievement, others are either Rightweight (W. H. Auden on the poetry), valedictory (Dorothy E. Collins's *Recollections*), stoutry (Patrick Cahill on Chesterton and the Future of Democracy), or just plain wit (John Galsworthy on Chesterton in Japan). "Not the least of his limitations was his failure to appreciate the character of the Japanese."

Under the general editorship of Christopher Rich, the Penguin English Poets have already proved itself an excellent series in paperback, which is presently why they are not published in hardcover by Allen Lane. A. J. Smith's *John Donne: The Complete Poems* (Ed. J. D. Fleck, 1964) is a new edition of the *Complete English Poems* (Ed. J. D. Fleck, 1964), and E. S. D. Jones's *Andrew Marvell: The Complete Poems* (Ed. J. D. Fleck, 1964) are the first volumes to be so transformed. Marlowe, Wordsworth, and Browning's "Ring and the Book" are promised space. The series recommends itself to the serious reader by reason of its completeness. The *Donne* is outstanding, containing as it does the recently discovered manuscript of the verse letter to Lady Carey and Mistress Essex Rich.

Myrna Blumberg

His writing changes with his

so doing, is rigorously excluded. So here bodies can litter Washington's hotels and open spaces and no one is a penny the worse. Only the jokes—and they are deft as Mr. Ait's foot—proliferate all the faster. Hall the superbly professional.

Dressing of Diamond, by Nicolas (Hamish Hamilton, £2.25). French woman magistrate's son kidnapped. Freeing Van der Valk is still as poppily exuberant of thought, as knowingly jumps ahead. Ambition: full marks.

Final Notice, by Joe Gores (Gollancz, £2.10). Second, very welcome, appearance of a crime-fighter, could make reader's task easier, but a splendid skylight on to real low-life.

The Face on the Cutting-room Floor, by Cameron McCabe (Gollancz, £2.25). Well worth while re-issue of 1937 curiosity. Set in London film world (now splendid period piece) and full of dazzling technical snook-cocking.

The Fairly Innocent Little Man, by Laurence Meynell (Macmillan, £1.95). Cheerful Hooky Hefernan investigates South Coast con-man. As ever, a thoroughly enjoyable affair, like a bridge evening with decent cards guaranteed.

The Forgotten Road, by Simon Hurviter (Hutchinson, £2.40). In the hands of old Dorian Silk takes short walk in the Rhine. Adventures below: instruction descends. How to be effortlessly upper-crust and have sex.

Done to Death, by Sara Woods (Macmillan, £1.95). Poison-penny in Yorkshire. The classic whodunit of yore told with grateful lucidity. Niceness shines through everywhere; credulity is just a bit aroused.

H. R. F. Keating

Queen Mary and Others

By Osbert Sitwell

(Michael Joseph, £3)

Osbert Sitwell was perhaps the finest raconteur of his generation, an urbane, witty, imaginative observer of his own life and other people's times. Readers who delighted in his lively, sure autobiography and his many books of essays and travel tales will greet the appearance of what is apparently a new volume of essays with delight.

But its freshness is relative: as far as I can judge, only four or possibly five of the dozen pieces in the book are truly new. Others have appeared not only in various periodicals (some in the early 1940s) but in previous books, occasionally in more than one. There is no thorough indication of sources, and the book has apparently been put together without the help of many books of essays and travel tales. Others have appeared not only in various periodicals (some in the early 1940s) but in previous books, occasionally in more than one. There is no thorough indication of sources, and the book has apparently been put together without the help of many books of essays and travel tales.

Yet there are pieces here which one would not have missed. When Sir Osbert wrote about Queen Mary for *The Observer* in 1947 and again for *The Spectator* in 1953, he could not do so as fully as he does in the reissue of this book in a poised, unerring yet still a delectable portrait, with some beautiful anecdotes (anyone who does not already know the story of Her Majesty, Mr and Mrs Timmins, and the onions, should flip to pages 46-47).

One expects anecdotes and eccentricities in any rumination of Sir Osbert's: true or not, they are always hilarious. Here, for instance, are the lady who "rang the front-door bell, and demanded that I should

take down in embroidery the colours that she would sing to me," and Mrs Cornelius Vanderbit, who, meeting the Soviet Ambassador for the first time, "began her conversation by saying to him 'I was devoted to your Czar'."

Duckworth have re-issued Sir Osbert's best novel, *Before the Bombardment* (1935), and his *Collected Stories* (1950), which certainly deserve to be kept in print. The novel first published in 1926, is now a faded pastiche, accurate, though the fun sometimes a little over-egg. Some of the short stories represent the author's best work outside *Left Hand, Right Hand: A Piece of One's Own*, and other ghostly stories: *The Love-Bird*, or *The Greeting*—these are enormously substantial, packed as full of meat as an egg, as full of bitter-sweet as an orange. The very best Mandarin!

Derek Parker

A Double Life, by Sir William Hayter (Hamish Hamilton, £3). Sir William Hayter spent 22 years in the diplomatic service before settling early to become a writer. He is a college. He offers sensible thoughts on his two professions and tells some good stories. He is frank but never indiscreet. We learn more about his likes—travel, oysters, Winchester, important people, Bertha—than about his dislikes, except for Suez, which nearly made him resign, and a few bad diets like Shephard and Vishinski. His three years as ambassador in Moscow were the most rewarding part of his career, and to these he has already devoted an earlier book, *Russia: A Piece of One's Own*, which is recommended to those who have read the earlier book to skip. Without immediate Sir William might have been a bit more expansive.

Desmond Morris

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not remarkable secrete
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ad. In a very short
has forged a simul-
approachement with
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United States from
restored relations with
helped to negotiate a
the Middle East that
to lasting peace. He
he has, on occasion,
essed the tide of his-
bility to do this with
is a rare gift among
It is true that some of
ments look more sub-
n they may eventually
The war continues
limited progress is
made with the Soviet
Middle East is still
and the European re-
is still bruised. But
ments are still of
significance. His skill
combined with some
have brought new
to American policy
y furthered the in-
he United States and
rld as a whole. His
would be far more
the world than that
n.
this lifts him above
absolves him of the
to account for his
He has probably
own case by reacting

so, heavily and by threatening
resignation before the facts are
established. He cannot expect
that he will be immune from the
sort of questioning to which
other members of the Administra-
have been subjected. He
owes it to the importance of his
office and the hopes which are
placed on him to go through the
same mill, however much he may
have having to do so.
There are a number of ques-
tions which require answers. How
deeply was he involved in the
decision to tap the telephones of
officials and journalists in 1969?
Was the decision justified, and
were the proper procedures
observed? Did he tell the truth
when he was testifying under
oath to the Senate Foreign Rela-
tions Committee during his
confrontation hearings? If not,
does this make it impossible for
him to continue as secretary of
state?
These questions are now to be
reviewed by the Foreign Rela-
tions Committee. Until the results
emerge there are a few points
that can be made. He was clearly
justified in trying to stop leaks
from the White House. Tapping
the telephones of suspects would
not necessarily be an illegitimate
way of trying to do this. But if
his conscience was clear there
would be no need to withhold the
truth from a closed session of a
Senate committee. The Senate
has a right to expect the truth
in such circumstances and he
himself was under oath to provide
it. If untruth is proven it will
create a serious problem for Dr
Kissinger. It is one thing to have
a reputation for devious diplo-
macy with foreign governments
who expect it, and quite another
to commit perjury before one's
peers.
But even if perjury were

proven it would not necessarily
require his resignation. If he
were prepared to swallow his
pride and leave the decision to
the Senate it seems highly
unlikely that anyone would want
to push things to that point. His
achievements are known and
respected and nobody would
underestimate the effect that his
departure would have on Ameri-
can foreign policy. It may well
turn out that he was more guilty
of half-truths than untruths and
in that case there would be plenty
of room for compromise.
While the Senate is trying to
establish the facts the American
press should keep a sense of
proportion. Dr Kissinger is
working very hard to further
American interests, and he has
every right to expect some recog-
nition of this. Yet when he gave
a press conference on his return
from the Middle East it became
an occasion for wire-tapping.
The simple fact is that the press
of the Middle East is more
important than the tapping of
journalists' telephones. If this is
lost sight of the work of Dr
Kissinger will be even more
hampered than it already is.
The purging spirit of the
Watergate inquiries is beneficia-
in so far as it establishes that
members of the government are
not above the law and that the
pursuit of legitimate ends does
not justify illegitimate means.
But if the search for truth is
tainted by bloodlust it will have
the opposite effect. This danger
is now very obvious. What Dr
Kissinger is accused of having
done is not comparable to the
vast web of malpractice that has
been exposed by the Watergate
inquiries. It would be wrong and
deeply damaging to the United
States and her allies if a justifi-
able inquiry became a manhunt.

RIGHT TO BORROW AGAINST GOLD

ion by the major
of the International
und to support the
using gold as col-
lateral between central
timely contribution.
has risen in the most
in relation to Italy's
blem. It would have
ically impossible for
its foreign currency
by much further
borrowing. The truth
of recycling the
se in money according
ducing countries is
offering a consequent
payments deficit has
to swamping the
titutions operating in
In term of normal
dence, many of these
now reached the point
an no longer increase
money they have lent
s in one country.
free market price of
standing well above
once countries with
ce of payments prob-
sequence of the oil
have been in the
position of finding
al gold reserves
immobilized at a
keeping valuation of
nunce. By allowing
to use gold as a

market related price as collateral
for loans between each other,
monetary gold reserves could be
effectively reallocated.
It does not, however, neces-
sarily follow from this that
monetary gold is about to be
reinstated as a central part of the
mechanism of the international
monetary system. This is, both
in logic and in practice, a differ-
ent question on which there is
no sign of early agreement
between even the leading mem-
bers of the IMF.
The evidence indeed is that the
majority of the IMF are behind
the attempt to make the IMF's
special drawing right the
centre of the monetary system.
As we reported yesterday, the
IMF's reform Committee of
Twenty is about publicly to agree
that this unit, to which all others
should relate, shall be valued in
terms of an average bundle of
the world's major trading cur-
rencies.
There is a paradox that those
who wish to phase gold out of
the monetary system and those
who wish to restore it to its
former position jointly advocate
many of the same first steps
towards their respectively quite
different ends. Thus, for example,
to restore the right of private
citizens to own gold can be seen

as having two diametrically
opposed aims. It can either be
seen as an admission that gold,
not paper currency, is the only
true store of value in an infla-
tionary age. Alternatively it can
be seen as a declaration that gold
is merely another commodity,
having no part in the monetary
system, in which private individ-
uals should therefore be free to
speculate.
The central decision remains,
as has always been the case,
whether or not central banks will
be allowed (or allow themselves)
to buy gold from the free
market. They have always been
free to sell on the free market,
but have understandably de-
clined to do so, while the free
market price has been higher
than the official price and rising.
The Americans have never
dropped their opposition to the
notion that central banks should
be allowed to buy gold, thus
potentially increasing the
amount within the monetary
system. There is now widespread
support for the idea that the IMF
should sell gold on the free
market, having bought it from
central banks. It remains to be
seen whether there is any grow-
ing support for the idea that the
IMF should also be allowed to
buy gold, either directly or on
behalf of its members.

IR PAY, BETTER HOUSING, BETTER HOURS

of policing in London
ously threatened by
of manpower. That
clear by Sir Robert
Commissioner of the
Police, in presenting
report yesterday. The
not new and the police
in this plight among
services in London.
living, especially of
time and expense of
work and the general
life are so much
to metropolitan area
natural for those who
their skills anywhere
ry to prefer to do so
uncomfortable and less
findings. That applies
local government
en, general practi-
other groups as well.
A vicious circle has
a number of these
city the shortage of
ces condition which
fessional satisfaction
makes the shortage
worse.
especially true of
nd general practi-
in one sense of the

police as well. The worst policing
problems in the country are found
in London. That is where the
professional challenge is greatest,
and there is no doubt of the
satisfaction this can bring. But
the shortage of staff makes work-
ing conditions appalling in the
sense that a man can never be sure
of having his time off with his
family. What is more, he can
be readily called to deal with a
demonstration or some other
threat to public order. This is
naturally destructive of family
life and the pressure of wives has
a great deal to do with the high
rate of wastage from the Metro-
politan Police.
It is this rate of wastage that is
the principal anxiety. It means
that the position is in practice
even worse than the manpower
figures indicate because not only
is there a net loss but each year
experienced officers in mid-
career are being replaced by raw
recruits. The effect of this on
the quality of policing is
undeniable. There is no accurate
measurement of the ideal level of
police manpower. The authorized
establishment, which has not been

reached in London for years, is
no more than a notional calcula-
tion. But it is clear that the
present force is far below what is
needed. With more men, and
women, many areas of police work
could be better staffed and there
could be a more evident police
presence on the streets, which can
be no small disincentive to crime.
What then can be done? The
most obvious remedies are more
assistance with housing, the cost
of which is a particular anxiety
for the young policeman scraping
up the money for a mortgage, and
an adequate London allowance.
These are both necessary. They
could help to stem the flow of
officers to provincial forces. But
more will be required to prevent
men leaving the police altogether.
The only remedy for that is to
improve the position of the police
in the national salary scale. There
is a powerful case for doing so for
the sake of public order and
safety. But it will not be easy.
In safeguard the interests of the
public service professions until
there are some arrangements
to prevent leapfrogging wage
increases.

is
Harper
port (June 3) of the
occasion of probation
leave at York last
which a number of
d for more bail hostels,
a statement that "in
of [bail] hostels" was
fied as of no fixed
to prison instead of
a bail, while awaiting
s indeed the position,
shly unsatisfactory one,
nism for bail hostels
rely confusing the real-
is of course that no
may properly be con-
courts, unless his con-
ally justifies such a
zently published report,
vice working party on
d that principle and
bail should be granted

sa of right in all cases, unless there
is sufficient grounds for refusing
it. Nevertheless, they went on to
welcome the establishment of bail
hostels to which defendants of no
fixed abode, who are "otherwise
suitable for bail", may be sent "as
a condition of bail".
The qualification "otherwise"
merely begs the question at issue.
Individuals who are suitable for bail
(because there is no significant risk
of their absconding, interfering with
witnesses or committing further
offences while on bail) should be
granted bail unconditionally—those
of no fixed abode, no less
than those of a more conventional
address. If people wish to "live
rough" that is their choice, and it
is not a choice which the courts are
entitled to frustrate, making its
enforced abandonment a condition
of bail (with imprisonment the only
alternative) as though the mere fact
of being without a fixed abode re-

buted the presumption of innocence
—a presumption which the working
party themselves maintained should
govern bail decisions, no less than
decisions on guilt.
But for section 18(5) (e) of the
Criminal Justice Act 1967, which
provides that a court may refuse
bail "where it appears that a defen-
dant has no fixed abode" there
would be no case for bail hostels
which could not equally well be met
by ordinary hostels for the homeless,
who are homeless, not from choice,
but from force of circumstances.
Section 18(5) (e) ought to be re-
pealed, and bail hostels are merely
helping to sustain it in being. It is
time middle-headed liberals got their
priorities straight.
Yours faithfully,
TOM HARPER,
3 Milton Court,
Barbican, EC2,
June 5.

Edinburgh Opera House plans

From the Lord Provost of Edinburgh
Sir, Mr. Bernard Levin, author of the
article "The mean burghers of
Scotland's capital" in today's Times
(June 11), is a journalist whom we
have had the pleasure of welcoming
at our Edinburgh Festival on several
occasions. As he confesses to a love
of Edinburgh (though he has a funny
way of showing it) I am sorry to learn
from his article that he is so ignorant
about it.
I can set a few facts against his
fantasies.
Edinburgh has made a definite
decision to build an Opera House.
In the autumn of 1971 the Corporation
received an offer of grant from the
Scottish Arts Council for the
Government approved the brief for
grant and in June 1973 the Corpora-
tion finally approved the brief and
instructed the project to start.
The first stage of design will be
completed next month. Expenditure
on fees etc already exceeds half a
million pounds. The project, at
January 1974 prices, is expected to
cost £18 million all told, and design
cost £1.5 million is programmed to
be completed by 1981.
The complex is being built to
house Edinburgh's theatrical activity
of all kinds—not only grand opera—
throughout the year. The only
conceivable bearing of the Glasgow
Opera House on this is that it will,
by creating a better market in
Scotland, assist the Edinburgh Opera
House—a multi-purpose theatre—
to build up its programme.
So far as "meanness" is con-
cerned, I should like to remind Mr
Levin that Edinburgh Corporation
spend more on the arts and cultural
activities than any other comparable
city in the country. It is perhaps the
only city in the United Kingdom to
own and operate all the large
theatres within its boundaries, and
annually Edinburgh Corporation
gives substantial subsidies to Scottish
opera, the Scottish National
Orchestra and a whole host of local
drama, musical and cultural groups.
Up to and including 1973 Edin-
burgh Corporation's direct contribu-
tions to the International Festival
have totalled £1,327,000. This figure
does not include the many indirect
contributions to the Festival by
utilization of Corporation depart-
mental services.
Mr Levin says that "Edinburgh
is keeping the standard of hotels
down". Though he doesn't explain
what "many" means, "mean" mean
burghers' manage to do so. In fact,
since 1970 four large new hotels have
been opened and extensions made to
three other first-class hotels making
almost 1,000 new beds available to
visitors. The Edinburgh Festival
has in addition to building new
accommodation for lectures, expanded
its university halls of residence
so that in the summer months when
the students are on holiday up to
1,000 visitors can be accommodated
in any one night.
My references to
Edinburgh prudishness are all too
typical of the kind of thing we have
come to expect from ill-informed
journalists hard up for a headline.
We had looked for something better
from Mr Levin. He may not be a
—although he should—that Edin-
burgh Corporation for several years
has subsidized that most adventurous
and outspoken of experimental
theatres, the Traverse, and that
indeed but for the Corporation the
Traverse would not now be in
existence.
Perhaps when Mr Levin attends
this year's Festival—and I under-
stand he will take the opportunity
of becoming better informed about
the theatre of the arts in Edinburgh.
JACK KANE, Lord Provost,
City Chambers,
Edinburgh,
June 11.

D-Day commemoration

From Brigadier Sir Alexander
Stanner
Sir, Having just returned from the
Normandy D-Day commemoration
in the press given to the 30th anni-
versary of the landings in France.
Particularly to the spirit of the
occasion, which means so much to the
small towns and villages liberated by
the British liberation army in 1944.
For my part, I shall ever remember
the packed church at Asnelles-sur-
Mer where the service ended with
the singing of *Auld Lang Syne*. Later
the naming of the roads from the
beach—Devonshire, Dorset, Hamp-
shire after the infantry regiments
who came that way on June 6, 1944.
The inauguration of the trees and
shrubs given by the British to
surround the village memorial.
Buried under a simple ceremony in
the beautifully kept cemetery at
Bayeux amongst the 4,000 graves.
Yet again at Hotot (pop 200) in the
bocage country where much heavy
fighting took place. Here we stood
in the centre of the village whilst
the children sang *God Save the
Queen*, in English. A moving and
proud moment.
Everywhere we went we were
welcomed and offered hospitality.
We and the inhabitants did not come
to commemorate war, but instead to
once again remember the friendship
and gratitude extended in 1944 and
still very much alive in 1974.
Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER STANNER,
The Manor,
East Farndon,
Market Harborough,
Leicestershire,
June 11.

A cruiser from Jutland

From Mr A. W. Thorburn
Sir, With reference to the letter
headed "A Cruiser from Jutland"
regarding HMS Caroline (May 31),
I believe that Calloppe, the flagship
of the 4th Light Cruiser Squadron
under Commander C. Le Mesurier,
(of which Caroline was a member)
in which I served as a Third Writer,
at Jutland, is at Newcastle as head-
quarters of the RNVR there, so why
should not she be restored and pre-
served rather than Caroline?
Yours faithfully,
ALEX W. THORBURN,
Longview,
11a Great Wheatley Rd.,
Ryleigh,
Basing,
May 31.

Legal immunity for strikers

From Mr J. B. Bransbury
Sir, Mr. Campbell Adamson is
brilliantly right and Professor Wedder-
burn is certainly wrong in their
references to the consequences of
the Bill now before Parliament of
which it is widely believed Professor
Wedderburn was the inspiration and
perhaps even at times the drafts-
man.
The Torquay Hotel case turned on
a narrow point of fact; were the acts
of Mr Cousins and others against the
Imperial Hotel intended to help
them in their dispute with the Tor-
quay Hotel? Lord Denning said:
"The only question is whether the
acts done by the defendant union
officials against the Imperial Hotel
were done in furtherance of the
trade dispute with the Torbay
Hotel. I do not think they were."
The anger which they felt towards
Mr Chapman for having, as they
said, intervened in their dispute.
They were not furthering a trade
dispute, but their own fury and
the Trade Dispute Act 1906 does
not protect them."
Under the new Bill unions and
their pickets would undoubtedly be
free to bring normal life to a halt if
the object was to help them resolve
their dispute with their employer.
The victims of the picket were parties
to the dispute or not; and the miners'
picketing in the spring of 1972
(before the relevant sections of the
1971 Act had come into operation)
well illustrated the danger.
Yours faithfully,
J. B. BRANSBURY, Chairman of
the Industrial Relations Sub-
Committee of the Bar Association
for Commerce, Finance and
Industry,
Buckley Grove,
Beaconsfield,
Buckinghamshire,
June 12.

Break-up of farms

From Lord Porchester
Sir, The declared intention of some
to prevent any form of inherited
land prompts me to examine the
effects of the application of this
policy to farm and forest land
and the countryside. What could be
more prudent than those who farm
land and grow timber and try to
enhance their property making
every effort to hand over the fruits
of their work to those who may
succeed them?
The building up of any industrial
enterprise involves considerable
capital, some risk, and much hard
work. Farm and forest land in particular
requires very personal attention and
produces a low return on capital
invested. The stewardship of an
estate, exactly like farming, means
the caring for and love of your
property, and the task of maintaining
it and where possible improving the
quality and beauty of this heritage.
Many years of devotion to this
cause brings with it the very natural
desire to leave it in the hands of
those you love and those you have
tried to bring up to care for their
home. If there is no possibility of
owner occupier-farmers and estate
owners seeing their own and their
predecessors' life's work handed on,
then the incentive to improve and
beautify the countryside will be
removed and the landscape of
England, which is mostly man-made,
will slowly fall into decay.
Since my father had the foresight
and generosity to give me a farm
over 25 years ago, I have, to the best
of my ability, cultivated and im-
proved my land and cared for my
friends who live within its bound-
aries. Like many other land owners
in this beautiful county of Hamp-
shire, I have tried to make the best
use of my land and to give the public
access and support the
county council's efforts to lease or
acquire, by agreement, areas for
country parks and picnic sites in
suitable settings.
As a fervent believer in democracy
and as a supporter for many years
of much of the philosophy of the
welfare state and improvements in
opportunities for all, may I please
beg those who seek to break up the
farms and country estates for doc-
trinaire rather than fiscal reasons
to consider carefully the damaging
effect this policy will have on
agricultural prosperity and on the
fabric of the countryside which has
been cherished by the whole commu-
nity for so many generations?
Yours faithfully,
PORCHESTER,
Milford Lake House,
Burghclere,
Newbury,
Berkshire.

Taxing works of art

From Mr George Levy and others
Sir, As representatives of the Fine
Art Trade in the United Kingdom,
we are writing to say how deeply
concerned we are at any suggestion
that the proposed wealth tax might
include pictures and works of art.
If this were to happen, the long
standing tradition of private collect-
ing in this country could be brought
to an end and a very short period
of time. This would not only lead
to the dispersal of the great collec-
tions in this country (Mr Denis
Mahon's letter, June 10) but equally
affect collectors of limited means
and persons of living artists.
Furthermore, we are convinced
that the administrative problems of
valuation are enormous and of fair
valuation even greater, and that this
would inevitably lead to gross
anomalies.
Yours faithfully,
GEORGE J. LEVY,
President, British Antique Dealers'
Association,
1 O. CHANCE,
Chairman, Christie, Manson &
Woods Ltd.,
C. P. WESTON, Chairman,
Society of Fine Art Auctioneers,
GEOFFREY AGNEW, Chairman,
Society of London Art Dealers,
PETER WILSON, Chairman,
Society & Co, London, W1,
June 12.

Dress in court

From Mrs Barbara Kew
Sir, It was interesting to read that a
young solicitor's clerk was con-
sidered improperly dressed in court
because she was wearing trousers.
In departments of social service up
and down the country young social
workers are familiar with this prob-
lem. I know of no case where a
social worker has been asked to
leave court, but certainly made out-
side court by formal and informal

Freeing gunmen in Germany

From Lord Janner
Sir, Some weeks ago you devoted
space on your centre pages to Willy
Brandt's apprehension at the anti-
democratic trends within western
political life 30 years after the
destruction of the Nazi tyranny. The
parliamentary and economic insu-
lability of most western governments
and, in Italy's case, economic
problems combined with violent
inter-party rivalries, seems to bear
out the former Chancellor's
argument.
It is depressingly ironic, however,
that it should be the Federal Repu-
blic which has so conspicuously
failed to resist the demands of the
international "demolition squad"
gnawing away at the fabric of our
social and political order.
After the Munich Olympics
tragedy the surviving Arab gunmen
were unconditionally released by
West Germany. Today two more
convicted terrorists were set free,
not as a result of an act of terrorism
but in fact in anticipation of disrup-
tion at the World Cup.
Herr Schmidt's government has
clearly demonstrated the vulner-
ability of West Germany to similar
operations, and will undoubtedly
give encouragement to those forces
who believe in the legitimacy of
violent tactics as a means of creating
social and political change. We may
all have to bear the cost of today's
political misjudgment.
Yours sincerely,
JANNER,
House of Lords,
June 12.

Deported from West Bank

From Dr Walid Kamhawi
Sir, Last December I was one of
eight Palestinian Arabs deported
from the West Bank by the Israeli
authorities. At midnight, on Decem-
ber 10, 1973, the Pay of Human
Rights, we were simultaneously
visited by members of the Israeli
Security Forces. Arrested, blind-
folded and most of us handcuffed,
we were forcibly led out of our
homes. No warning of what was to
happen to us had been given, no time
allowed us to bid farewell to our
families or collect our personal
effects. After seven hours of seem-
ingly aimless driving, we were
dumped in the Wadi Araba desert
area and persuaded at bayonet point
(demonstratively shown some of
us) to walk in the direction of the
Jordanian lines. No charges have
since been brought against us, and,
as far as we can determine, we were
merely the latest victims of the
favourite Israeli policy of arbitrary
banishment of Palestinian civic
leaders.
At present, we are separated from
our homes and families. We have
no idea whether and when we will
be back. At our age, it is difficult
for us to start again from scratch, as
we are already well advanced in
our homeland. Consequently, we
have no means of livelihood and we
are unable to secure the needs of our
dependants.
We do not consider the Israeli
occupation authorities to have any
legal grounds for the action which
they took against us. Naturally, we
reject the Israeli occupation of our
homeland; but we have transgressed
no law or convention in doing so.
We declare ourselves ready to return
at any time and face any charges the
Israelis may bring against us.
We appeal to you to convey this
readiness to the Israeli authorities.
And we appeal through you to
British and world opinion to help us
in securing what we believe we are
entitled to as human beings (whether
under occupation or not), a fair trial.
If the Israeli authorities should
prove incapable of giving us such a
trial, we still would prefer imprison-
ment, however unjustified, in our
own homeland, to banishment from it.
We sincerely hope that we will
be accorded moral support similar
to that given by British and other
Western countries to Alexander
Solzhenitsyn and many others. Such
support will greatly strengthen us in
resisting the injustice by which Israel
has separated us from our land and
families.
Yours,
WALID KAMHAWI (for the eight
expelled Palestinians),
105 Grand Building,
Trafalgar Square, WC2.

Activities of priests

From the Reverend Joseph O'Hanlon
Sir, One must agree with Mr J. W.
Kennedy (June 11) that the failure
of the Catholic hierarchy to condemn
unequivocally the activities of some
few priests must give cause for con-
cern and scandal. One might add that
some clarification of the moral
implications of hunger-striking might
not have gone amiss recently. But
whatever the reasons for their silence
on these issues, we await their
explanation, if it cannot be maintained
with any degree of seriousness that
the bishops condone criminal actions.
Nor is it consistent with any avail-
able evidence to suggest that, in
relation to the Ulster troubles, the
Irish clergy in Britain are insensitive
to the feelings of their hosts.
We believe that the whole body of
Irish clergy in this country lends
moral or political support to
bombers, bank robbers, kidnappers
or even hunger strikers? Allegations
of this kind demand considerable
evidence. It is scarcely in accord
with the demands of justice to accuse
so many dedicated Christians of
causing very severe damage to the
Church without recourse to sub-
stantiation. It is at least possible that
the guest, and not the host, is the
offended party.
Yours faithfully,
JOSEPH O'HANLON,
St Hugh's College,
Tollerton Hall,
Nottingham.

Non-stick stamps

From Mr P. Nicholls
Sir, Mr R. A. S. Thomas (June 11) is
quite right. If you lick the stamp a
portion of the gum is removed by
the tongue; whilst if you lick the
envelope the whole of the gum re-
mains on the stamp.
Yours truly,
P. NICHOLLS,
Rush Common House,
Abingdon,
Oxfordshire.

Half a skeleton in the cupboard

From Mrs Joan Tucker
Sir, When my elder son began his
medical training seven years ago he
paid £10 for half a human skeleton.
Three years later my younger son
entered medical school, and the
value of these bones had risen to £20.
My daughter is soon to train as a
physiotherapist, and one of her re-
quirements is half a human skeleton.
And the cost now? £40 to £50.
What better investment than a
skeleton in the cupboard?
Yours faithfully,
JOAN TUCKER,
55 Morrish Road,
Farncombe,
Croydon,
June 11.

GUARDIAN INVESTMENT TRUST

Mr. M. B. Baring's Review

The eighth Annual General Meeting of the Guardian Investment Trust Company Limited will be held on July 4th, in London. The following is the statement of the Chairman, Mr. M. B. Baring, circulated with the Report and Accounts for the year ended March 31st, 1974.

RESIGNATION OF MR. G. L. C. TOUCHE

Mr. George Touche told your Board in November he wished to spend less time in the City and to expand more of his undiminished energy on other interests, and so it was with regret that we had to accept not only his resignation as Chairman but also, at his insistence, his retirement from the Board.

Mr. Touche served the Company as Chairman for eight years, having joined the Board as a Director in July 1957, and your Company has been fortunate to have had such a distinguished and well-known Chairman whose career and leadership in the investment world has been recognised as second to none. His wisdom and decisive moral integrity was spiced by humour and a sense of fun so that he was respected and greatly liked by all who worked for this Company.

Now any skill, virtue or vice of a new Chairman will gradually, or perhaps suddenly, be put to the test. I appreciate the opportunity my colleagues have given me and will rely considerably on the advice they are so well qualified to offer and hope we shall continue to work as a strong team.

LOW LEVEL OF STOCK MARKET

The past year has been the most difficult and frustrating for our work that I can remember and this is reflected in the depressingly low level of the Stock Market. The investor is still faced with a great deal of uncertainty, such as the possible imminence of another General Election and the details of the Chancellor's proposed second Budget. Moreover the acute deterioration in the balance of payments, which has been greatly aggravated by the massive rise in oil prices, has surely created the need for all to co-operate in a national effort to restore economic equilibrium.

SOME IMPROVEMENT EXPECTED THIS YEAR

Against this background, it is not going to be an easy year for your Trust. The world's economies are all suffering from massive inflation, and in the U.K. the equity investor is still handicapped by the retention of dividend control which deprives him of an important part of his compensation for being the provider of risk capital. Nevertheless, it is hoped that the current level of the U.K. market now largely discounts the acknowledged problems which lie ahead and, accordingly, I feel that it is not unreasonable to expect some improvement in stock market levels during the current year.

Datsun Cherry leads the Beetle in UK list of imported car sales

By Edward Townsend

The Datsun Cherry has emerged as the best selling imported car in Britain. In the first five months of the year, sales of the Japanese model totalled 6,767, a few hundred more than its nearest rival, the Volkswagen Beetle.

In May two Datsun models, the Cherry with sales of 1,525 and the Sunny with 1,442, were first and second most popular foreign cars.

The figures, released today by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, also show that the importers' share of the United Kingdom car market

although fairly static in the five-month period, dropped from 27.15 per cent in May last year to 26.1 per cent last month.

In a total United Kingdom market depressed by 23 per cent over May last year, Renault retained its position as leading importer followed by Datsun, Fiat and Volkswagen.

New registrations of British Leyland cars were down from 43,636 in May, last year, to 35,930. But the company managed to boost its overall share of the market from 29.82 per cent to 31.88 per cent. Over the five months, BMC's market penetration was 34.51 per cent.

Ford, which makes the best selling car in Britain, the Cortina, saw its market share rise from 22.89 per cent last May, 1973, to 25.24 per cent last month. Second in the best selling list is the Ford Escort followed by the Mini, Marina, Vauxhall Viva, Hillman Avenger and the Allegro.

Vauxhall's market share dropped to 6.69 per cent last month against 8.30 per cent in May, 1973, and registrations dipped from 12,157 to 7,539.

The total market for cars in the United Kingdom in the five months was 554,182 vehicles, of which 139,743 were imported.

Scrap tyres could yield oil

By Clifford Webb

The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, of America, has announced plans for a full-scale evaluation of a remarkable recovery process which transforms unwanted scrap tyres into oil, carbon black and steel.

Mr. Charles Pilioid, Goodyear's chairman, said: "We estimate that one full-scale scrap tyre recovery plant, if proven feasible could annually recover enough petrol chemicals and other materials from eight million scrap tyres to build an additional two million tyres a year including the energy necessary to produce them."

He said that Goodyear scientists believed that the recycled oil could be further refined for

a wide range of uses, from manufacturing additional rubber products to heating homes. It could also be processed and used as a component in lead-free petrol.

The disposal of 200 million scrap tyres annually is one of the world's biggest environmental problems.

The new recovery process has been developed by Tosco, an American oil shale company. It has been tested in a pilot plant handling 25 tons of tyres a day and is said to be ready for evaluation.

Goodyear is talking in terms of eight million scrap tyres producing 15 million gallons of oil, 75 million lb of carbon black and two million lb of steel.

Business appointments



Mr. J. A. Heifurt, who becomes director-general of the American Chamber of Commerce (United Kingdom) on August 1. For the past eight years he has been the United States Consul General responsible for consulates in Britain.

Changes at the top for Metal Closures Group

Changes have been made to the main and subsidiary boards of the Metal Closures Group. Mr. J. Boden becomes executive chairman of the group and Mr. J. Houghton sole group managing director. Mr. R. C. Bilton is appointed an additional director, and Mr. W. R. Gamble resigns from the board and from subsidiaries. Mr. W. Roberts becomes group secretary in succession to Mr. V. Nash, who resigns from the post but remains on the board. At Metal Closures Ltd, Mr. Boden is appointed chairman and Mr. I. Cassara managing director. Mr. Cassara also becomes chairman of Johnson Bros (Closures) and the Stopper Manufacturing Co. Mr. Nash becomes chairman of Ideal Capsules, and Mr. Houghton has been made president of Alcatraz Italiana SpA, but resigns from the boards of all other United Kingdom subsidiaries.

Mr. W. C. Thomson is to become chairman and Mr. G. E. Fairclough managing director of Shell Chemicals UK from September 1. Mr. E. J. Mackay is resigning from the post to take up an appointment outside the Shell group.

Mr. C. T. Smith has been appointed regional director, Europe, for Rolls-Royce (1971) from July 15. He will be based in Paris at Rolls-Royce (France). Mr. Michael Warren becomes manager of the Paris office.

Sir Frederick Catherwood will join the board of William Mather and Denny Mott.

The following have been appointed dealing directors of the Charles Fulton Group: Mr. J. A. Beard, Mr. D. M. Bennett, Mr. J. Dalrymple, Mr. J. Fobister, Mr. A. Houghton, Mrs. Angela Howarth, Mr. J. Little, Mr. R. Phelan, Mr. P. D. Porter, Mr. A. R. Prime and Mr. W. S. Thomson.

Mr. John Ellis has been made vice-president of the Midland National Bank in charge of the bank's European activities and head of the bank's London representative office.

Mr. S. Benjamin, Mr. P. D. Jones, Mr. E. E. Scarfield, Mr. D. R. Packman and Mr. F. R. Wales have been elected to the council of the Institute of Actuaries.

Mr. V. C. Malton has been appointed a director of Winstone Securities.

Mr. G. F. E. Scruby, senior partner of Sir Frederic Snow and Partners, has been elected chairman of the Association of Consulting Engineers.

Mr. R. S. Owers has been appointed managing director of Bahamas International Trust Co on the retirement of Mr Harold Revington.

Mr. M. Hollnash, chairman of Kearley and Tonge, has been elected chairman of the British Importers Confederation in succession to Mr. A. E. Cave.

Mr. Richard Lewis has been made a regional director of the South Wales regional board of Lloyds Bank.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION To the Holders of Government of New Zealand Twelve Year 6 3/4% Bonds due July 15, 1979

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Bonds of the above-described issue, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, as Fiscal Agent, has drawn by lot for redemption on July 15, 1974 at 100% of the principal amount thereof through operation of the Sinking Fund \$769,000 principal amount of said Twelve Year 6 3/4% Bonds due July 15, 1979 bearing the following distinctive numbers:

18	1855	2008	3288	4318	4922	5977	7511	8223	8705	10082	11972	13100	14200	15432	16283	17201	182
31	1267	2023	3225	4369	4947	5952	7370	8221	8702	10098	11983	13102	14202	15434	16284	17202	183
59	1271	2027	3229	4373	4951	5956	7374	8225	8706	10102	11987	13106	14206	15436	16286	17206	184
78	1124	2145	3265	4389	4967	5972	7390	8227	8707	10107	11989	13108	14208	15438	16288	17208	185
128	1132	2153	3273	4397	4975	5980	7398	8228	8708	10108	11990	13110	14210	15439	16289	17209	186
202	1187	2208	3328	4421	4982	5985	7403	8229	8709	10109	11991	13111	14211	15440	16290	17210	187
288	1194	2215	3335	4428	4989	5990	7410	8230	8710	10110	11992	13112	14212	15441	16291	17211	188
397	1202	2223	3343	4436	4997	5995	7417	8231	8711	10111	11993	13113	14213	15442	16292	17212	189
498	1209	2230	3350	4443	5004	5998	7424	8232	8712	10112	11994	13114	14214	15443	16293	17213	190
614	1217	2238	3358	4451	5012	6000	7432	8233	8713	10113	11995	13115	14215	15444	16294	17214	191
745	1224	2245	3365	4458	5019	6003	7439	8234	8714	10114	11996	13116	14216	15445	16295	17215	192
891	1232	2253	3373	4466	5027	6005	7447	8235	8715	10115	11997	13117	14217	15446	16296	17216	193
1042	1239	2260	3380	4473	5034	6008	7454	8236	8716	10116	11998	13118	14218	15447	16297	17217	194
1208	1247	2268	3388	4481	5042	6010	7462	8237	8717	10117	11999	13119	14219	15448	16298	17218	195
1389	1254	2275	3395	4488	5049	6013	7469	8238	8718	10118	12000	13120	14220	15449	16299	17219	196
1586	1262	2283	3403	4496	5057	6015	7477	8239	8719	10119	12001	13121	14221	15450	16300	17220	197
1799	1269	2290	3410	4503	5064	6018	7484	8240	8720	10120	12002	13122	14222	15451	16301	17221	198
2028	1277	2298	3418	4511	5072	6020	7492	8241	8721	10121	12003	13123	14223	15452	16302	17222	199
2273	1284	2305	3425	4518	5079	6023	7499	8242	8722	10122	12004	13124	14224	15453	16303	17223	200
2534	1292	2313	3433	4526	5087	6025	7507	8243	8723	10123	12005	13125	14225	15454	16304	17224	201
2811	1300	2320	3440	4533	5094	6028	7514	8244	8724	10124	12006	13126	14226	15455	16305	17225	202
3104	1307	2328	3448	4541	5102	6030	7522	8245	8725	10125	12007	13127	14227	15456	16306	17226	203
3413	1315	2335	3455	4548	5109	6033	7529	8246	8726	10126	12008	13128	14228	15457	16307	17227	204
3738	1323	2343	3463	4556	5117	6035	7537	8247	8727	10127	12009	13129	14229	15458	16308	17228	205
4079	1330	2350	3470	4563	5124	6038	7544	8248	8728	10128	12010	13130	14230	15459	16309	17229	206
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5198	1354	2373	3493	4586	5147	6045	7567	8251	8731	10131	12013	13133	14233	15462	16312	17232	209
5603	1361	2380	3500	4593	5154	6048	7574	8252	8732	10132	12014	13134	14234	15463	16313	17233	210
6024	1369	2388	3508	4601	5162	6050	7582	8253	8733	10133	12015	13135	14235	15464	16314	17234	211
6461	1377	2395	3515	4608	5169	6053	7589	8254	8734	10134	12016	13136	14236	15465	16315	17235	212
6914	1385	2403	3523	4616	5177	6055	7597	8255	8735	10135	12017	13137	14237	15466	16316	17236	213
7383	1393	2410	3530	4623	5184	6058	7604	8256	8736	10136	12018	13138	14238	15467	16317	17237	214
7868	1401	2418	3538	4631	5192	6060	7612	8257	8737	10137	12019	13139	14239	15468	16318	17238	215
8369	1409	2425	3545	4638	5199	6063	7619	8258	8738	10138	12020	13140	14240	15469	16319	17239	216
8886	1417	2433	3553	4646	5207	6065	7627	8259	8739	10139	12021	13141	14241	15470	16320	17240	217
9419	1425	2440	3560	4653	5214	6068	7634	8260	8740	10140	12022	13142	14242	15471	16321	17241	218
9968	1433	2448	3568	4661	5222	6070	7642	8261	8741	10141	12023	13143	14243	15472	16322	17242	219
10533	1441	2455	3575	4668	5229	6073	7649	8262	8742	10142	12024	13144	14244	15473	16323	17243	220
11114	1449	2463	3583	4676	5237	6075	7657	8263	8743	10143	12025	13145	14245	15474	16324	17244	221
11711	1457	2470	3590	4683	5244	6078	7664	8264	8744	10144	12026	13146	14246	15475	16325	17245	222
12324	1465	2478	3598	4691	5252	6080	7672	8265	8745	10145	12027	13147	14247	15476	16326	17246	223
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14289	1489	2500	3620	4713	5274	6088	7694	8268	8748	10148	12030	13150	14250	15479	16329	17249	226
14996	1497	2508	3628	4721	5282	6090	7702	8269	8749	10149	12031	13151	14251	15480	16330	17250	227
15729	1505	2515	3635	4728	5289	6093	7709	8270	8750	10150	12032	13152	14252	15481	16331	17251	228
16488	1513	2523	3643	4736	5297	6095	7717	8271	8751	10151	12033	13153	14253	15482	16332	17252	229</

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Chief speaks of growth dilemma

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CONSOLIDATED EXPLORATION NY LIMITED

the Republic of South
Africa

OF DIVIDEND

No. 69

interim report and
accounted in the year
1974, the conversion
to payments in U.K.
the above mentioned
= R1,617.55 equivalent
of shares.

Shareholders' tax is

London Secretaries &
Solicitors Limited,
born, Vauxhall.

EDIP 143.

office at the London
secretaries

C. Station Road,
Cent, TN23 1QB

L COLD STORAGE

AND

MPANY LIMITED

the Republic of South
Africa

DIVIDEND ON

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= R1,617.55 equivalent
of shares.

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American firms found guilty of \$7.5m fraud

An American national
accounting firm, Laventhol,
Kraus, Horowitz & Horowitz,
and Allen and Co Inc, considered
one of Wall Street's most sophis-
ticated investment banking con-
cerns, committed fraud in a 1969
private offering of \$7.5 about
(\$3m) in securities, a United
States District Judge has ruled.
Financial statements issued
by the Firestone Group, a
California real estate company,
and audited by Laventhol were
false and misleading, Judge
Lloyd F. MacMahon of New
York concluded. He said Allen
and Co Inc, "encouraged" dis-
semination of the statements
and was "equally culpable"
with Laventhol.

Ronson denied order against Liquifin AG

Liquifin AG, said Judge
Charles Tamm of the United
States, denied Ronson Corpora-
tion's motion for a temporary
restraining order against Liqui-
fin and others in their proxy
fight to gain control of Ronson's
board.

In turn, Liquifin has filed a
counter claim against Ronson,
maker of lighters and appli-
ances, alleging violations of
securities laws in connection
with Ronson's proxy solicitation.

ITT in Avis move

To meet the deadline for
divesting itself of a 52 per cent
interest in Avis Inc, Inter-
national Telephone and Tele-
graph Corporation (ITT) is con-
sidering the sale of subordi-
nated debentures that could be
exchanged for Avis common
stock.

The 1971 consent decrees that
settled three Justice Depart-
ment anti-trust suits require
ITT to dispose of Avis and
certain other subsidiaries and
operations by September 24.

Multinationals plea

The United States has called
on other countries to avoid
"arbitrary and capricious
actions" against multinational
corporations. The call came at a
three-week session of a United
Nations conference on Trade
and Development. (Unctad)
working group which is drafting
a United Nations charter of
economic rights and duties

Weekly loss by broiler men put at £750,000

With present feed costs and
selling prices the British broiler
industry is losing about £750,000
a week, according to Lord
Edward Fitzroy, chairman of
the British Poultry Federation.
He was speaking at the inaugura-
tion in London yesterday of a
new information service for the
industry as a whole.
The service covers ducks and
turkeys, as well as chickens, and
eggs. Mr Bernard Matthews said
that a new promotion for small
turkeys at low prices would be
launched in about a fortnight's
time, as a mid-season sale. One
object was to clear cold stores
for the Christmas trade in larger
birds.

When you are leading users of radio isotopes - what kind of engineers are you?



In brief, very, very advanced ones.
When you manufacture machines
that produce cigarettes at the rate of 4000 a
minute (that's 66 every second), and
ancillary equipment that counts them,
weighs them and inspects them for flaws
and tobacco density at that speed too, it is
not difficult to understand the sort of
precision involved.

That precision is achieved by
expertise in many disciplines, including
precise high speed mechanisms,

sophisticated electronic and nucleonic techniques—we are among
Britain's leading users of radio isotopes*—and the development and use
of advanced numerically-controlled machine tools.

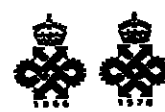
Then there's our printing, packaging and paper-handling machinery
subsidiary, Masson Scott Thrissell, whose rotogravure machines can print
800 million multicolour food packs a year. That's a very precise business too.

Yes, precision engineering is our business and our high standard is
one of the reasons we are world leaders in our field.

*Molins have co-operated closely with The Radiochemical Centre at Amersham, Bucks, for more than twenty years.

Molins Limited,
Evelyn Street,
London SE8 5DH.

MOLINS
International Precision Engineers



M4

Combined English Stores Group Limited

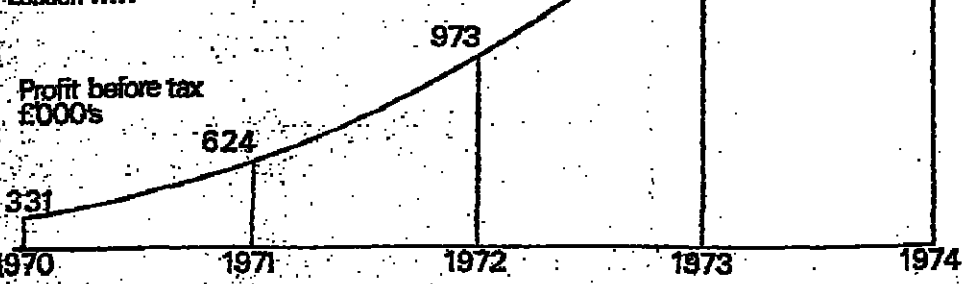


Multiple Specialist Retailers operating
566 shops in the U.K. and Belgium

Chairman Murray Gordon reports:

"The public have demonstrated their
preference for shopping in modern and
attractive specialist shops such
as ours and I am confident of the
long term profitable development
of the Group."

The Annual General Meeting was held
at the Dorchester Hotel, London, on
12th June 1974. Copies of the report
and accounts may be obtained from
the Company Secretary, 1-6 Clay Street,
London W.1.



ATLAS ELECTRIC AND GENERAL TRUST LIMITED



(Management Group: Touche, Remnant & Co.)

The following are salient points from the report
and accounts of the company for the year to
31st March, 1974.

- The recommended final dividend for the year is 0.70p which together with the interim dividend of 0.35p and Shareholders imputed tax credits of approximately 0.49p is equal to a total gross dividend of 1.54p compared with 1.40p. The Board is confident that the increased dividend can be maintained.
- The valuation of investments at 31st March, 1974, was £52,891,349 compared with £74,435,658 last year. This figure includes £2,862,077 being the full investment currency premium of 27 per cent.
- Asset value per share is 433p compared with 613p the previous year and includes 2.6p (1.9p) representing the investment currency premium.
- Immediate prospects for the U.K. economy are still obscure but many of the bearish factors should be discounted at present levels. In addition there are several favourable longer-term factors: U.K. exports are now very competitive on a price basis, the possible benefits of North Sea Oil are steadily coming nearer and growing in size and there are signs that the rise in commodity prices is coming to an end.
- The market values as at 31st March, 1974, of the twenty largest investments (convertibles and all classes of equity in any one company being treated as one investment) were as follows:—

Market Value at 31.3.74		Market Value at 31.3.74	
£'000		£'000	
Jardine Japan Fund	2,115	Standard & Chartered Banking Gp.	739
General Electric Co.	1,635	Allied Breweries	716
"Shell" Transport & Trading	1,095	Jardine Eastern Trust	650
George Wimpey	1,088	Imperial Chemical Industries	630
Indesat	994	Hongkong & Shanghai Bkng. Corp.	625
Royal Dutch Petroleum N.V.	975	Thorn Electrical Industries	622
Unilever N.V.	963	Rio Tinto-Zinc	585
Burmah Oil	897	Sphere Investment Trust	580
Barclays Bank	768	Unilever	570
Anglo American Investment Trust	765	Grand Metropolitan	560

These investments total £17,511,529 or 33.1 per cent. of the portfolio.

PROGRESS DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS

Year to 31st March	Total income £'000	Gross Ordinary dividend per share p	Total assets less current liabilities £	Net asset value of Ordinary share p	Ordinary share price	Index: 1964=100 of share prices	Dividend per Ord. share	Net Asset value
1965	2,111	1.042	39,322	29	102	105	119	100
1969	2,088	1.208	68,360	55	164	125	138	151
1973	2,179	1.40	75,069	61	180	165	160	212
1974	2,928	1.54	58,304	43	116	184	176	150

Copies of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from the Secretary,
3 London Wall Buildings, London, EC2M 5PE.

Six main points in monetary reform proposals

From Frank Vogl
Washington, June 12

The decisions being taken on international monetary reform by the Committee of Twenty in Washington this week are based largely on a lengthy report, *Outline of Reform*, prepared by the committee's deputies. Committee sources said that almost every recommendation in it will be accepted.

The unpublished report starts by noting that "it is agreed that there is need for a reformed world monetary order, based on cooperation and consultation within the framework of a strengthened International Monetary Fund, that will encourage the growth of world trade and employment, promote economic development and help to avoid both inflation and deflation."

An important section of the *Outline of Reform* is devoted to immediate decisions that can be taken this week, all of which are likely to be agreed upon.

The report says that "an amendment of the articles of agreement (of the IMF) will be introduced to enable the Fund to legalize the position of countries with floating rates during the interim period."

Further, countries "will pledge themselves for the time being not to introduce or intensify trade or other current account measures for balance of payments purposes without the prior agreement of the Fund that there is balance of payments justification."

"In this connexion appropriate arrangements will be made for coordination between the Fund and the G-20. An amendment of the articles of agreement will be introduced, having similar effect to the above mentioned pledge."

The *Outline of Reform* notes that there will be agreement on a new definition of special drawing rights, on the establishment of a ministerial council within the IMF, which will need an amendment in the articles of agreement, on the acceptance of general guidelines

for floating and on procedures on how to reduce the international monetary role of gold.

Finally, the deputies recommend that a joint ministerial committee of the IMF and the World Bank should be established, to carry forward the study of the broad question of the transfer of real resources of developing countries.

Significantly, this final suggestion has little support among European countries, but the United States is pushing it strongly and it seems certain to be accepted, as the developing countries are threatening to wreck the whole meeting unless this new ministerial committee is established.

Mr Paul Volcker, Under-Secretary at the American Treasury, has said that the *Outline of Reform* is of major significance.

The future monetary system should consist, the Committee of Twenty believes, of arrangements covering the following six main points:

1, an exchange rate regime based on stable, but adjustable par values, with allowance under special circumstances for floating, subject to the approval of the IMF;

2, powers should be granted to the IMF to ensure cooperation in dealing with disequilibrating capital flows;

3, an appropriate form of convertibility should be introduced for the settlement of imbalances, with symmetrical obligations on all countries, which could be done through an IMF "substitution account" allowing countries to exchange reserves for SDRs at the Fund;

4, better international management of global liquidity should emerge, possibly with the IMF setting hard rules on reserves accumulation, and applying pressures on countries when such rules are not adhered to;

5, under IMF direction, greater consistency should be organized between arrangements for convertibility and global liquidity;

6, strong efforts should be made and improved systems adopted for the promotion of the net flow of real resources to developing countries.

The deputies have agreed that a system of objective indicators should be used in the adjustment process, based on reserves. However, the details have not been agreed on this and a big difficulty is that if the system becomes too rigid the development of a country's reserves, in a definite direction, could produce currency speculation in the markets long before the IMF decided that special allowance should be given for a change in the currency's par value.

The deputies are in equal disagreement, the *Outline of Reform* shows, on the sort of pressures that the IMF should be allowed to apply on countries. The most radical pressure, for example, is for countries to be ordered by the IMF to apply discriminatory trade and other current account restrictions against a country with persistent payments surpluses.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Need for public financing of BSI activities

From Mr J. G. B. Hills

Sir, Your article (June 7) did not mention the increasing and important work of the British Standards Institution in the provision of "Codes of Practice" for many industrial and constructional activities. The need for these is unfortunately borne out by the increasing number of untoward incidents reported in the press.

The proposed basis for increased subscriptions seems to be unfair to those firms and public bodies which, directly or indirectly, support the work of the institution with substantial assistance from their technical staffs.

The content of "Specifications and Codes of Practice" naturally becomes more complex as industry develops, in whatever direction, and much of their compilation depends on persons who are immediately in touch with the applications of the documents.

In particular, the preparation of "Codes of Practice" requires detailed knowledge of the conditions where some test method or some customary construction will become unrel-

able. Both British Standards and Codes of Practice are prepared by meetings of panels and sub-panels of experts nominated by various trade associations and public bodies.

These persons are largely drawn from the senior technical staffs of member firms. The meetings are necessarily devoted to the criticism of draft documents and ensuring that details are not overlooked. The source of these drafts is the work done by the members outside the meetings.

The writer, when employed in industry, took part in many gatherings of this kind and found that on an average about two man-weeks of highly technical work with supporting office services was needed for each. The cost of this had to be found by his employers in addition to his salary and expenses for attending the meetings.

The present need for greater productivity at all levels in industry has led to less time being available for work of this kind. There have already been serious delays in the provision of adequate codes of practice

for, among other matters, sure vessel design, safe disposal of dangerous wastes by safety valves.

It may be argued that British Standards Institution work will be done by Government departments, research in universities. How structure of our C. and the need for the people in touch with industrial problems alternative approach cable.

Surely it is time vital activities, also are organized in suited to our "British life", were financial public funds as the least are in other or would be deplorable of the institution I would be glad to see town planning request Yours faithfully, J. G. B. HILLS, Chartered Engineer, "Oakmore", Cadogan Road, Cambridge, Cornwall.

Faster pace seen in UK investment overseas

The level of outward direct investment by British companies rose by a modest 8 per cent between 1971 and 1972, but nearly doubled between 1972 and 1973. These are some of the results of a quarterly survey conducted by the Department of Industry and published in *Trade and Industry*.

Earnings on outward investment rose by more than a quarter between 1971 and 1972, in part caused by the effect of the floating of the pound on the sterling value of British earnings abroad.

The further decline in the value of the pound last year, together with the rapid rises in the prices of commodities, contributed to a 50 per cent increase in earnings between 1972 and 1973.

Overseas direct investment in Britain fell back in 1972 to a level only slightly higher than that of 1970; but it rose substantially—by between a half and two-thirds—between 1972 and 1973.

Foreign earnings on this inward investment rose by about one-third between 1971 and 1972, more than matching the rise in British gross trading profits.

The situation in the motor industry in the latter part of 1973 was a contributory factor to the more modest rise of less than a fifth in foreign earnings from Britain in that year.

Home engineering orders decline

By Edward Townsend

The trend of net new orders received by the engineering industry from home market customers in recent months has fallen by up to 13 per cent, to below the level for sales.

As a result, according to the government journal *Trade and Industry* today, the level of orders on hand on a seasonally adjusted basis fell marginally throughout the industry during the three months to the end of February.

A brighter picture has emerged on the export front. While the trend of net new export orders fell by some 3 per cent in the period, orders were coming in from abroad at a greater rate than sales, result-

ing in an 8 per cent rise in export orders on hand. Home sales fell by 8 per cent in the three months to the end of February, and this largely accounted for a 6 per cent drop in total sales over the previous three months.

It is stressed that the lower level of sales in the engineering industry probably only partly reflected the fall in production caused by the three-day week.

Home sales in January were 10 per cent down on the fourth quarter of 1973, but partially recovered in February, probably due to a run down of stocks and work in progress. Machine tool sales rose: Britain's machine tool industry fared better than expected

during the fuel crisis and the three-day week, according to *Trade and Industry*. Sales in the first quarter of 1974 stood at £55m—2 per cent higher than the previous three months.

Quoting for the first time, figures for the period covered by the three-day week, it is revealed that new export orders received during the first quarter were worth £33m, or 50 per cent more than a year ago and 8 per cent higher than in the previous quarter.

Machine tool companies had more than £210m worth of orders outstanding at the end of the quarter—an increase of 71 per cent over a year ago and 9 per cent more than at the end of last year.

Cool reply to BLMC strike call

By R. W. Shakespeare

A union call for a 24-hour strike by some 4,000 British Leyland white collar workers, in support of demands for a cost-of-living threshold pay increase, drew only a lukewarm response yesterday.

Only about half of the union members—the Association of Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (AEXCS)—responded to the call.

About 2,000 AEXCS members at the Austin-Morris car plant at Longbridge, Birmingham, decided to stay at work; but at the Austin-Morris plant at Cowley, Oxford, a stoppage by clerical workers halted car production, and some 2,000 manual workers had to be sent home.

At other British Leyland

factories throughout the country, including the rest of the Midlands car plants and the bus and truck centres in Lancashire, Scotland and Middlesex, groups of clerical workers, including those responsible for production control work, joined the stoppage. But vehicle output was not seriously affected.

The union is demanding that its members receive the £1.20 a week increase which becomes payable to some eight million other workers in Britain after the latest Retail Price Index announced last month. However, the existing agreement between the union and British Leyland contains no threshold clause.

Another one-day strike is planned for next Wednesday, and the union is also calling for an overtime ban and a work-to-

rule by all its members in British Leyland.

Other disputes over the application of threshold pay increases are continuing. At the Plessey Telecommunications factory at Beeston, Nottinghamshire, about 6,000 manual and white collar workers have been staging a sit-in. Production has been at a standstill since Monday.

This came after the breakdown in negotiations with the management and a protest about a management decision to lay off 4,000 shop-floor workers.

At the Pye telecommunications factory at Dinton, Cambridgeshire, 70 test engineers staged a stoppage yesterday, also over a threshold agreement.

Their union, also AEXCS, plans to call a similar strike at Pye's Haverhill factory in Suffolk either today or tomorrow.

Europe asks OPEC not to raise tax

Brussels, June 12.—The nine EEC countries are collectively urging the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) not to increase taxes on oil companies when its members meet in Quito, Ecuador, on Saturday.

In an aide-memoire being delivered somewhat reluctantly by the West Germans to the OPEC secretariat, the Nine point out that the recent high profits announced by the main oil companies are attributable to highly unusual circumstances.

They argue that present profits are not large enough to absorb an increase in taxation, which would therefore be passed on to the consumer, thus aggravating inflation.

Finally, the Nine indicate that they will continue to keep an eye on the oil market to ensure that the companies do not make excessive profits.

MP's plea for freer office building rules

Too much restriction has been placed upon office and commercial development out of overanxiety not to divert resources away from house building, according to Mr Hugh Rossi MP, Conservative spokesman on the environment.

Speaking at a world property conference in London yesterday, organized by the Financial Times, Mr Rossi said: "Therefore, my current belief is that we must review our policy on office development per-

Jaundiced view of commercial radio in London

From Mr J. Whitney

Sir, *Business Diary's* "Look at independent radio" (June 4), appeared to take a somewhat jaundiced view of commercial radio in London.

It was suggested that, first, national advertisers were hesitant about using either London stations because of information on the size and type of audience was scant and, secondly, that the listening levels that had been achieved did not justify current rates charged.

Certainly in the case of Capital Radio, the conclusions drawn are totally incorrect. The top ten advertisers on television in April included travel, beverages, home decorating, drink, stores, food and household goods—Capital attracted national advertisers which fell within each of these classifications within the same month.

Since Capital Radio went on

the air last October, approximately 60 per cent of advertising through national advertisers and some 25,000 commercials have been transmitted.

Media buyers in agencies which have followed the progress of independent radio will know that Capital commissioned National Opinion Polls to carry out major research in January for the purpose of establishing Capital's profile and listenership.

The survey revealed that over a million Londoners listened to Capital Radio every day and that one in four Londoners tuned to Capital each week. Capital is rapidly becoming the choice station of Londoners with the survey showing a loyal audience, aged from an average of 2 hours and 48 minutes each day. These facts were about our audience just

three months after C.

on the air. Before the advent of capital radio, agency predictions that an cost for reaching 1, with a 30-second would vary from be to 30p. Since March, average cost per 1,00 12p—making radio better buy.

Since January, marketing receipts have not to climb, and it months which normal down-turn in television receipts indicate a rise for radio.

Indeed, there has a greater justified of Capital than there is a Yours faithfully, J. G. B. HILLS, Chartered Engineer, "Oakmore", Cadogan Road, Cambridge, Cornwall.

Wrong impression about Occupational Pensions I

From Mr P. R. Oglesby

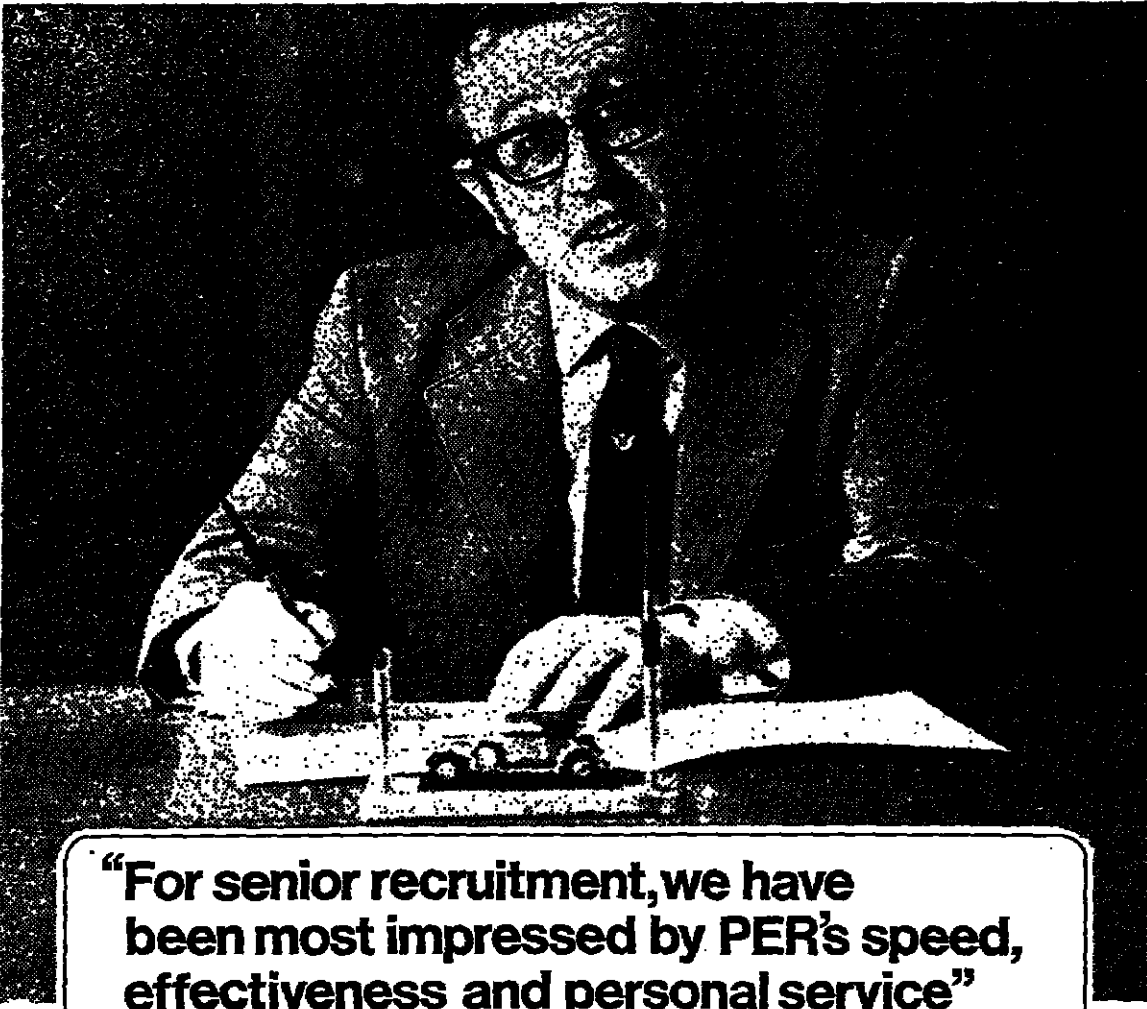
Sir, Mr Brunet's article on May 29 (Special Report on insurance) about the Government's decision not to proceed with the arrangements for "recognizing" occupational pension schemes gives the impression, no doubt unintentionally, that it was delay on the part of the Occupational Pensions Board in issuing detailed guidance that prevented pension scheme managers from going ahead with applications for recognition certificates. In

fairness to the Occupational Pensions Board and their staff, I should like to correct that erroneous impression.

The Board were appointed and started work early in September last year. Little more than two months later, on November 21, they issued three memoranda giving the comprehensive guidance and information which employers and their advisers needed in order to get on with the job of making their applications. These three memoranda

were long and complicated, largely with matters, and their pre such a short time, for of that sort, require long, hard work.

I am sure Mr Brunet there was no u delay on our part. Yours faithfully, P. R. OGLESBY, Secretary to the Occupational Pensions Board, 16-19 Gresse Street, London W1P 1PB.



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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Freight rate momentum at Tate & Lyle

It is currently the name of the game at Tate & Lyle, as the company's earnings are concerned. Just how playing the game is from the shipping market to the ECU 2.2m against expectations of around 2.5m.



Mr. John O. Lyle, chairman of Tate & Lyle, strength in shipping and overseas.

tribution from shipping up from £1.9m to £2.5m to 36 per cent before central charges. True, shipping is in the second half ear, but it has done better in the first 15 years.

the market is now self just how much is can last, given the 1 scale freight rates. The point is that the two £4,000s are out on charter and several of the s are also on medium-term. That speaks for high contribution for some time to the 15 parcel tankers and to attract more "r", rather than world or strong performer re-distribution-trading a contribution rose to £5.8m though this was with a very de half of 1973. Re-United States price shed here and there vious reason for the law sugar production from a £0.17m loss 4m profit reflecting and the climatic

most companies in the group currently have satisfactory order books. Admittedly, losses were incurred in Northern Ireland during the general strike, but that hardly seems like a p/e ratio of under 4 on latest year's earnings with the shares at 54p.

Interim: 1973/74 (1972/73)
Capitalization £9.8m
Sales £26.4m (£22.6m)
Pre-tax profits £2.85m (£1.87m)
Dividend gross 1.66p (1.57p)

CompAir After the power crisis

CompAir was already talking of a component shortage before the power crisis. The pessimistic statement at February's annual meeting that a "miracle" would be needed to produce satisfactory results this year only served to underline stock market fears already reflected in a share price of 85p compared with a peak of 132p last year. And at 50p yesterday, the shares took a £0.3m fall in pre-tax profits for the six months to March 31 in their stride.

Now CompAir is talking of making up most of this shortfall in the second six months, with some analysts even talking of £6m pre-tax for the current year against £5.8m in 1972/73, which points to a prospective p/e ratio of a little under 8 accompanied by a 5.2 per cent yield.

CompAir was looking for £3m before tax in the opening six months. Whether short-term working has any lasting effect on the supply of bright-in components remains to be seen. But these accounts for between 30 and 70 per cent of CompAir's needs and with the acute shortage of diesel engines likely to be only a little easier by the year end, the implications for profits are clear.

A rationalization of CompAir's product range may help cut costs and with a growing overseas contribution—now 64 per cent of sales—provide some relief for margins. CompAir points down this year. But it is a moot point whether all this makes the shares cheap in the short-term.

Interim: 1973/74 (1972/73)
Capitalization £22.2m
Sales £20.5m (£20.5m)
Pre-tax profits £2.35m (£2.65m)
Dividend gross 1.49p (1.43p)

Kenning Motor Judicious timing

Kenning Motor Group can thank its judgment in selling its holding in the property last year for some £3.4m as its interim figures have held up as well as they

have. For although both profits and turnover are down on the previous year, the financing problems which have beset some in the motor trade are notably less severe here.

Despite the general downturn in new car registrations and the difficulties in the used car market, Kenning has managed to contain stock levels successfully at the half-way stage and, with the benefit of the interest on the proceeds of the property sale, financing charges have fallen from £0.51m to £0.40m. That, in turn, has enabled margins to be pegged at 2.6 per cent against 2.7 per cent in the comparable period, which is encouraging in the circumstances.

Shedding a British Leyland franchise has clearly had its attractions this year, since supply of Austin Morris's small car range has continued to fall short of demand. But while that should still give Kenning a sales edge over some other distributors, supply and demand are coming more into balance now and whatever short term hopes there may have been for a general sales revival must have taken a bump from the recent 9 per cent price rise.

So there can be little surprise in the board's forecast that last year's second-half profits will not be matched. Kenning has already shown some defensive strength, but if one assumes earnings per share down from 7.9p to 6.4p, the shares are selling at between 5.7 and 6.2 times prospective earnings and looking quite high enough.

Interim: 1973/74 (1972/73)
Capitalization £7.7m
Sales £23.7m (£20.7m)
Pre-tax profits £1.56m (£1.65m)
Dividend gross 2p (2p)

Electronic Rentals Another solid advance

Electronic Rentals had a dull enough start to the year, with interim pre-tax profits just 10 per cent up, but the market remained unimpressed with yesterday's preliminary figures, which showed profits usefully up by £0.68m to £3.4m pre-tax in the second half. As forecasted in the interim statement, most of the running in the final six months was made by the group's camping division.

While this showed only modest improvement, from £0.95m to £1.2m over the year it was a lucky beneficiary of the fuel crisis, which gave a marked boost to the stove equipment side, resulting in a trebling of the second half contribution from £293,000 to £892,000. In the current year, the upsurge seen in the opening months of the previous year.

On the rental side second half profits edged up from £2.1m to £2.4m, excluding the £111,000 losses the group is carrying over from last year. In the current year, this division is right in the firing line of recent government measures, particularly advance payments on rentals that have, on the group's estimation, resulted in a fall of 40 per cent in new placing in recent months. But ER also argues that the expansion seen in placings last year, reflected in depreciation charges up from £5.6m to £8.8m is enough to maintain income.

But much depends on interest rates, with finance charges up from £1.6m to £2.6m last year, while the camping side will have to fight hard to maintain its profits if the autumn fails to bring a further round of electricity cuts. At 45p the shares are on a p/e ratio of 9 and possibly overvalued.

Final: 1973/74 (1972/73)
Capitalization £24.6m
Sales £41m (£33m)
Pre-tax profits £5.95m (£5.04m)
Earnings per share 5p (4.4p)
Dividend gross 1.75p (1.66p)

Maurice Corina on the state intervention row

CBI's need to define private sector role

Quite suddenly, Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, finds himself out in the open, with the hours baying. This time the squabbling CBI pack is being put in full cry by its new president, but who should be the new master but none other than the Prime Minister. It promises to be a lively battle with Labour's rank-and-file and trade unionists dogging out of the underground as hunt saboteurs for the League Against Free Enterprise.

If some respected political commentators are to be believed, then Mr Wilson is taking personal guidance of Labour's industrial policy to reassure the private sector that the election manifesto was a worthless document.

It seems that publication in The Times last month of the Labour Party Liaison Committee on the Department of Industry's current work programme has angered Mr Wilson, who, it must therefore be concluded, does not really want the rank-and-file and Cabinet Liaison committees he has created to perform their stated functions. They have no point if ministers cannot share their thoughts with those presumed a new style of Labour Government.

Additionally, it is said that Mr Benn has dared break a rather long departmental silence with a couple of speeches, such as those to the National Union of General Workers and the Nottinghamshire miners' gale, to tell how election pledges will be fulfilled and private industry is lining its pockets with state monies without strings attached.

Before the CBI leads the industrial community in three cheers for the Prime Minister, industrialists might be well advised to ask themselves: "Can all this be true?" After all, who made Mr Benn the Secretary of State for Industry? And who appointed Mr Eric Heffer, a man of very clear views, to help him around the department?

At the same time, how is it that the man who acts as chairman of the Labour Campaign Committee, incorporating the former policy coordinating committee, is not Mr Benn's own man? And who is Mr Benn's own man?

Further, the CBI, now in the throes of reappraisal of its constitution to help industry stand up to government, is not taking care as it enters the political arena to do battle with Mr Benn. It is not that this writer subscribes to the Industry Secretary's views, rather that fairness requires some independent judgment from one who has watched his department more closely than most and actually asked the man some nasty questions.

What "Wedgie" (as the civil servants call him round at Victoria Street) has been doing is some hard research on all the ideas for further nationalization, changes in state aid arrangements, planning agreements and the National Enterprise Board. It is the kind of research that is not a political party out of office, and further, the intention is to publish a Green Paper as a basis for consultation and public discussion.

Surely industrialists would wish the whole issue of state intervention, Labour-style, to be brought right into the open. A decent debate on the role of the public and private sectors in industry is long overdue—and it is served by the last Conservative administration found itself driven by events towards more intervention by virtue of the no help for long-term policy (framed by former CBI director) equal elevated to Cabinet rank.

Mr Benn has had his head down. There has been little time in his diary for the usual

ministerial glad-handing round the country. He has seen union messmen and trade union leaders by the hundreds, but to talk about policy. Indeed, he is one of the first industry ministers for a long time to concentrate solely on the job—he was appointed to do.

Industrialists tell me that Mr Benn is the true thing under the Prime Minister's minority. Nationalization, they say, is unpopular, so are the other ideas for more state controls. Yet what is worrying is that they may be wrong. The manifesto did go before the electorate. The public is getting used to some of the ideas as more time passes. And Mr Benn has been assiduous in securing strong trade union support, giving union leaders a feeling of participation. Powerful allies indeed.

But, before I am accused of running a Ben fan club, let us hasten to my central point. What the so-called controversial minister is achieving has been partly by default. The CBI, as the premier representative of the manufacturing industry, has been in some disarray. Its leaders from the outset did not seem to take Mr Benn seriously.

The CBI has not thought anything like deeply enough about the role of the private sector, and its acquiescence to some of the previous Government's legislation carries its own curse. If nobody steps forward to explain the "profit-makers" point of view, then the CBI will be left with a well-based argument that now is the electorate to judge issues?

But for such as Lords Wainwright, Plowden and Robens, who, in their individual ways, have sounded some warnings and tried to redefine industry's responsibilities in a more contemporary way, the CBI might have been more defensible against Mr Benn's recent emergence from purdah to make smooth appeals to public opinion.

The CBI's problem of defending the private sector has a longer history than back to the recent election, and Mr Campbell Adamson's eye-of-poll remarks on the Industrial Relations Act. This emerges from the disclosure in The Times yesterday that at least 20 of the most senior industrialists have for some time found the CBI lacking when it comes to representing their interests and championing their causes.

At first sight, the new president, Mr Ralph Bateman, may seem hardly up to the task of meeting the demands for constitutional changes and a fresh look at principles guiding the industry. Yet, his remarks in actions could unite industry in a way that may make life more difficult for Mr Benn when he starts persuading Mr Wilson and the appropriate Cabinet committee to publish the Green Paper that some say ought to be deep red.

The letter just sent out to all member-companies and affiliated organizations is both trenchant and uncompromising. There is no mincing of words, no Adamson-style qualifications. The sense of when with the CBI stand up for free enterprise is finally right out into the open. Mr Bateman declares: "I do not feel we should stand idle in the face of policies and actions which, in my opinion, endanger the whole economy and prosperity of our people."

He calls on all members to back him in moving into the realms of conflict with government, "opposing in every way possible further state ownership and persuading the public that its interests are best served by free enterprise. And Mr Bateman frankly admits members have been questioning the CBI and its arrangements for defending certain principles.

There was evident relief yesterday when Mr Bateman's call for unity had struck the right note, delayed but not too late when it comes to further negotiations with Mr Benn and

others. Yet the CBI now has to do more than rush out a series of statements and speeches. Headlines-catching phrases will be hollow unless the CBI rallies together the wiser heads within the private industry to define the private sector's role and responsibilities in a mixed economy.

This involves making a deeper contribution, with alternative ideas when there is genuine public concern, or an active body of support for a proposal with objectives that may be met another way. Industrialists must come forward more readily themselves to argue with opponents or critics, not always leaving it to CBI leaders.

Their most important of all the icebreakers which have earned Finnish shipbuilding, and in particular the publicly owned Wärtsilä yard in Helsinki, an international lead in icebreaker construction. Appearances half of all the world's icebreakers are Finnish-built, the remainder coming mainly from Russia, West Germany and North America.

Yesterday saw the launching of Wärtsilä's Helsinki yard of the 36,000 shaft horse power (shp) icebreaker Jermak. This massive high-built triple-screw ship, which has replaceable screw blades, is destined for Russia where it will be used in the Polar regions. It is one of 11 similar vessels present on order. Two others will be delivered this year—one for Sweden and one for Finland.

Building icebreakers is a specialized technique which has led to the development of an entirely new technology since Wärtsilä launched its first 10,500 shp diesel electric-driven icebreaker in 1953.

Icebreakers for use in the Polar regions have to cut through two to three metres of ice. This is usually "old" ice which is frozen from underneath and is extremely hard. Icebreakers for Polar use have propellers at the stern only whereas those for use in waters with less hard ice, such as the Baltic, have screws in front for reverse thrust penetration and clearance.

Wärtsilä has established a special Arctic marketing and development unit employing some 20 people who concentrate on new ideas for icebreakers. The yard has also constructed the only icebreaking research centre in Europe with an "ice test tank" for model trials.

Finnish shipping experts took part in the Manhattan project in 1970 to test the possibilities of constructing icebreakers for forced tankers for transporting Alaskan oil. One aspect of new icebreaking research, which has

Finnish shipbuilders break through to Polar success

Instead of trying to compete in the world shipbuilding markets, Finland has made a name for itself by constructing very sophisticated specialized vessels. Although Finland, with its four and a half million population, ranks only about fifteenth in the international shipbuilding league, she has established herself as the builder of special purpose vessels—ro-ro ships, high speed car ferries, specialized tankers for carrying wines and gases, cable layers, ships for deep-sea exploration, and what are described as "accommodation ships" or floating hostels, for construction workers on Russian riverside sites.

But most important of all are the icebreakers which have earned Finnish shipbuilding, and in particular the publicly owned Wärtsilä yard in Helsinki, an international lead in icebreaker construction. Appearances half of all the world's icebreakers are Finnish-built, the remainder coming mainly from Russia, West Germany and North America.

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been put to practical use by Wärtsilä, who has patented the idea, is the so-called "air bubble system". This is a method to reduce friction by blowing out compressed air through holes along the waterline. The air keeps the ice away from the hull as it is pushed down by the bow which cuts through the actual ice. So far this expertise has been applied to three container ships, two tankers and a few of the new icebreakers.

With an eye to the future Wärtsilä's development team is turning its attention to constructing new vessels for transporting raw materials being discovered and exploited in the remote areas of the Arctic. As one expert at Wärtsilä said: "You can't get the minerals out of Polar regions through a pipe like oil. You have got to send a ship in." In addition development work is going on into the construction of ships, barges, platforms and machinery for extracting minerals from beneath the ice and from the deep sea generally.

Besides icebreakers, Wärtsilä has orders for seven passenger-carrying ferries, of which five are going to Russia. One of the most recent orders is for Finnlines gas turbine driven ferry, which is to operate on the Travenmunde route. It will have a top speed of more than 30 knots and carry 1,500 passengers, 220 cars and 30 trucks. The company also has on order two giant car carriers of 4,500 car capacity which will be the biggest in the world.

Wärtsilä, whose turnover in 1972 was more than US\$98m, has merged its two yards at Helsinki and Turku into one division and an extensive modernization programme is being carried out. Since 1953 it has built 20 icebreakers and since 1970 has delivered six cruise liners to Norway.

Finland now has nine shipyards owned by four companies—Wärtsilä (2), Valmet (3), Rauma-Repsola (4) and Holmsten (1). Valmet has recently opened its \$US40m yard just outside Helsinki where it has a semi-automated fabrication department engaged on constructing special carriers for Russia.

During 1964/73 the Finnish shipbuilding industry has produced 492 vessels totalling 1,984,800 tons. In 1972 in terms of compensated tonnage, the average coefficient for Finnish-built ships was 1.69. Finnish shipyards employ about 20,000 persons with another 20,000 in supporting industries representing 10 per cent of the country's total labour force. At present all the yards have full order books and further orders are likely to be handicapped by an increasingly acute labour shortage.

Michael Frenchman

The Property and Reversionary Investment Corporation Limited

Results to 31 March	1974	1973
Profit (all investment income)	£558,650	£496,808
Taxation on investment income	£218,246	£130,296
Dividend per share (maximum permitted)	3.551p	(not comparable)
Undistributed profit	£189,438	£154,512

Points from the statement by the Chairman, Mr Alfred Rubens, FRICS

- * Dividend covered 1.68 times and capitalised interest applied covered by profit retained.
- * Properties earmarked for development less than 5% of property assets.
- * Compensation for compulsory purchase of company's properties now agreed at £3.635m most of which has been received.
- * Properties exceed £20m in value.
- * Quoted securities exceed £3m.
- * Total borrowings and bank loans under £3m (including £2m debenture stock repayable 1988).
- * Net assets per share 304p.
- * Properties earmarked for development less than 5% of property assets.
- * Properties still considered to be conservatively valued. They include 125,000 sq. ft. of offices which at current values would produce additional income of £700,000 per annum over next 10 years.
- * No large increase in income expected while freeze continues but a substantial saving in interest expected during current year and company's position has never been stronger.

Copies of the report and accounts may be obtained from the Secretary of the Company at Albany House, Petty France, London SW1H 9EE.

OFFICE AND ELECTRONIC MACHINES LIMITED

Distributors for the United Kingdom of Adler Typewriters, and other office machinery:

Results for the year ended 31st December 1973	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969
Turnover	9,355,420	6,473,179	4,542,028	3,948,701	3,437,442
Profit Before Tax	1,205,895	841,986	572,693	461,638	365,969
Capital Employed	3,016,991	2,439,625	1,994,931	1,816,251	1,615,400
Net Margin on Turnover	12.9%	13.0%	12.6%	11.7%	10.6%
Return on Capital Employed	40%	34.5%	28.7%	25.4%	22.7%
Net Profit per share	14.0p	11.3p	8.1p	13.3p	9.8p

* A capitalization issue was made in 1971 of 1 share for every 1.5 old.

PROSPECTS. 1974 has started well. All products continue satisfactory progress. Results for 1974 are expected to be better than the average for business generally. New products now becoming available should be adequate to support continued expansion thereafter.

DISTRIBUTION. Final Dividend 283p per share payable on 8th July 1974. Making total of 4.21p for the year. Capitalization issue of 1 share for every 2 held on the Register at 21st June 1974.

A copy of the full Report and Accounts may be obtained on request from The Secretary, Office and Electronic Machines Limited, 140-154 Borough High Street, London, SE1 1JL.

ADLER O E M

Business Diary: Another Gaullist head rolls

continue to roll in our favour to either hard (such as Jean-Marie Schreiber) or the new President. Yesterday it was one of the most hard-fought episodes of the Gaullist era. Olivier was removed from Governor of the Bank

replacement by Bernard Clappier, is likely to lead to a less ideological line being taken by the French in future monetary negotiations. Wörster was, along with Maurice Couve de Murville, the ex-diplomat who was for a time Prime Minister, one of the high priests of Gaullism. In France today the Gaullists are on the way out, the technicians are taking over.



Olivier Wörster: a high priest of Gaullism

now 61, was one of 4 appointments made de Gaulle before he in 1969 after being a referendum. If glimmering career in the Service of the in France, where the between civil servants make it usual to be firmly and uncommitted to a speci-

Webster goes Harry Webster, 57-year-old technical director of Austin Morris, has resigned and is leaving British Leyland at the end of the month. Webster, an engineer of immense standing in the motor industry, was the secretary of the triumvirate formed by Lord Stokes in 1968 to run the volume car operations of the newly merged Leyland-BMC empire. George Turnbull, managing director, and Filmer Paradise, sales director, were the others. Both resigned last year following disagreement over the reorganization of Austin Morris.

Webster will be remembered for the very successful Triumph Herald and Triumph 2000 series which he developed as chief engineer of the Coventry company. It was largely because of this success that he was moved from Triumph along with his boss, Turnbull, to restore morale at Longbridge.

His first job there was to rush through the reorganization of the company then about to be launched. He has since produced the Marina and the Allegro. Further

us last night: "We are absolutely delighted to have secured a man of Harry's high standing in the European motor industry. His arrival will greatly strengthen our engineering team and help our push into European motor markets."

Barratt's way We wondered how long it would be before the petrol trade realized that the petrol crisis had given it a heaven-sent opportunity to make permanent cost savings on petrol sales. Now, thanks to men like David Barratt, managing director of Duff Morgan, British Leyland distributors in Norfolk, a campaign is getting under way to do just that.

The petrol shortage brought sharp reductions in the number of trading stamps offered, shorter opening hours and the huge give-away campaigns evaporated. Overnight the race was ended and the trade was back to square one. What courageous individual gambles had failed to achieve was presented on a plate.

the garage trade but what benefit will the motorist receive? Perhaps with more profit from petrol sales he can at least get his windscreen washed occasionally.

Mackay moves Changes of places and faces were revealed yesterday when the highest echelons of Shell Chemical UK arising from the departure later this year (for an as yet undisclosed destination) of Eric Mackay, the company's managing director and chairman.

Mackay, who has been managing director for two and a half years and chairman for close on two years, will formally depart from SCUK's headquarters in the Strand at the end of August to take up an appointment outside the Shell group. It was being stressed yesterday that there was nothing sinister about the Mackay move, simply that he wanted to move on, and at his level in Shell's chemical operations, the only in-house move would be sideways or downwards.

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Taking over as chairman of the UK company will be Bill Thompson, one of the triumvirate of contributors for Shell's chemical activities and a director of SCUK. Gerard Fairclough, at present marketing director, will become managing director.

He is bound, Mackay for the moment is remaining tightlipped. However it is thought to be overseas and almost certainly in the chemicals business. His career so far has largely been spent in foreign parts.

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fill an entire page of The Times describing every feature of my SW11 river view 2 bed. flat. New and pretty ideal when I moved in, it has since been further refined and streamlined to press-button perfection—and all for only £32,000 and 98 year lease, as business is taking me abroad. See for yourself just what I mean and ring me personally

01-228 5022

to arrange for viewing.

Ashley Gardens, S.W.1

Ground floor flat with 2 large reception rooms, 4 large bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with w.c., plus separate w.c. Large modern fitted kitchen, C.H.W., part C.H. Lift, porter. First class order. 2 minutes all public transport. 73 years' lease.

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An attractive maisonette flat, in need of redecoration, in a purpose-built block overlooking Westminster School. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, dining room, living room, study, terrace, garden, etc. Lease 99 years. Approx. G.R. £100 p.a. (gross) incl. council tax.

UNIQUE
RIVERSIDE FLAT

Breathtaking views over Chelsea and the river. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, dining room, living room, study, terrace, garden, etc. Lease 99 years. Approx. G.R. £100 p.a. (gross) incl. council tax.

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ABBOTT'S HOUSE
KENSINGTON

A selection of flats available in this modern block just off Kensington High Street. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, dining room, living room, study, terrace, garden, etc. Lease 99 years. Approx. G.R. £100 p.a. (gross) incl. council tax.

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MAYFAIR, W.1

Stunning and elegant flat built in 19th century mansion. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, dining room, living room, study, terrace, garden, etc. Lease 99 years. Approx. G.R. £100 p.a. (gross) incl. council tax.

£32,500

01-228 1810 or 01-228 603

REDCLIFFE CT., S.W.10

Light, pleasant, fully modernised 2 bed flat in quiet corner of Redcliffe Sq. Overlooking large landscaped garden. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, dining room, living room, study, terrace, garden, etc. Lease 99 years. Approx. G.R. £100 p.a. (gross) incl. council tax.

£32,500

01-228 1810 or 01-228 603

CORNWALL GDNS., S.W.7

Superb, spacious, 2 bedroom detached house in a superbly landscaped garden. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, dining room, living room, study, terrace, garden, etc. Lease 99 years. Approx. G.R. £100 p.a. (gross) incl. council tax.

£32,500

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W11 W11 W11 W11

Notting Hill Gate. Sunny top floor flat in 5 year old block. Westbourne Grove. Large, bright, airy, modern flat. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, dining room, living room, study, terrace, garden, etc. Lease 99 years. Approx. G.R. £100 p.a. (gross) incl. council tax.

£32,500

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LOWNDEN SQUARE
KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Most desirable of flat overlooking the square. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, dining room, living room, study, terrace, garden, etc. Lease 99 years. Approx. G.R. £100 p.a. (gross) incl. council tax.

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HYDE PARK ESTATE, W.2

2 bed, 2 bath, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, dining room, living room, study, terrace, garden, etc. Lease 99 years. Approx. G.R. £100 p.a. (gross) incl. council tax.

£32,500

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WARWICK SQUARE, S.W.1

Large lower ground floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, dining room, living room, study, terrace, garden, etc. Lease 99 years. Approx. G.R. £100 p.a. (gross) incl. council tax.

£32,500

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MYDDLETON SQ., E.C.1

Ground floor flat facing garden. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, dining room, living room, study, terrace, garden, etc. Lease 99 years. Approx. G.R. £100 p.a. (gross) incl. council tax.

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HAMPSTEAD (OVERLOOKING HEATH)

Spacious furnished house with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, dining room, living room, study, terrace, garden, etc. Lease 99 years. Approx. G.R. £100 p.a. (gross) incl. council tax.

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RIVER-SIDE, TWICKENHAM

Looking across Marble Hill Park to river. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, dining room, living room, study, terrace, garden, etc. Lease 99 years. Approx. G.R. £100 p.a. (gross) incl. council tax.

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OFF MARLBOROUGH RD., LUXURY

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ANIMALS AND

SIAMESE KITTENS
red, \$16.00; blue, \$20.00
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DESPERATELY NEEDED
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 787670
IRISH RED SETTER
 born 04-05-55
MINIATURE SHAM
 born 04-05-55
 (continued on p. 10)

Abstract

oring

pulsion
of
belts

very laudable efforts to
safer, described at last
International Experimental
Conference in London,
forgotten that the moti-
on in casualties could
at practically no cost and
existing vehicles. A
universal wearing of seat

ment has announced that
introduce legislation to
use of seat belts by the
car. Since the advantages
belts were conclusively
ago, this is hardly
ers; but there are still
opposed to compulsion,
18 months might profit
to talk them round.

ave been fixed to all new
cars, but for the most
of drivers and passengers
is not their regularly. It
is the Government that 1,000

deaths and 30,000 serious injuries
be avoided each year if belts already
fitted were fully used. Official cam-
paigns in selected areas have increased
seat belt wearing to some extent, but
the highest figure achieved anywhere
is only 22 per cent. Enforcement has
been largely failed; now there is to be
compulsion.

Britain will not be alone. Seat belt
wearing is already compulsory in Aus-
tralia and New Zealand and road casu-
alties have fallen significantly as a
result. France and Czechoslovakia have
(illegally) compulsion outside built-
up areas; legislation is being con-
sidered in Austria, Denmark, Norway,
Sweden and the Netherlands.

In Britain, compulsion is supported
by the motor industry, the medical pro-
fession, the motor insurers, the Auto-
mobile Association, the Royal Society
for the Prevention of Accidents, and
the Institute of Advanced Motorists.
Public opinion, according to a survey
carried out last year for the Society
of Motor Manufacturers and Traders,
two thirds of car drivers agreed wholly
with compulsion and a further 13 per
cent agreed partly.

But voices continue to be raised in
opposition. The Royal Automobile
Club argues that the wearing of belts
should be left to persuasion and indi-
vidual choice; and the Magistrates'
Association and some police associa-
tions fear that a law would be diffi-
cult to enforce. Several letters written
to this newspaper have also expressed
their hostility.

A common argument is: "If I want
to risk killing myself by not wearing
a belt, I should be free to do so." But
this "freedom" must be weighed

against the cost to the community, not
to mention the victim's immediate
family. According to the latest Gov-
ernment figures, published this week,
road accidents cost the community at
least £550 million a year: the figure
takes into account lost output, medi-
cal, funeral and ambulance costs
damage to vehicles and property and
suffering and grief.

Some people are prepared to wear
belts on the motorway but not on a
two-mile trip to the shops. But nearly
half the casualties among car occu-
pants take place in built-up areas and
it is not unknown for death to result
from a collision at 12 mph. More than
half of all accidents involving a fatality
occur within 10 miles of home.

There must be sympathy with the
already overburdened police force
faced with yet more laws to admini-
ster; but the experience of Australia
and New Zealand suggests that en-
forcement may not be such a problem,
and British people are generally fairly
law-abiding. I have sympathy, too, with
some old or disabled people who may
find it physically impossible to wear
belts; but the Government has pro-
mised to look sympathetically at such
cases and the necessary exemptions
will be made.

For people who still need con-
vincing, I would show, at peak hours
on television, a simulated head-on
crash involving two dummies: one
wearing a belt, the other not. Not only
will the driver without a seat belt
risk serious injury by striking the
inside of the car and the wind-
screen, the chances are that he will
be flung out of the car on to the road
and possibly into the path of an on-
coming vehicle.

test: Hillman Avenger GLS automatic

11 per cent of new cars
are sold with automatic
and for the smaller
the figure is more like
extra cost, at least £100,
a deterrent here, there
ing that automatic trans-
suited to large cars.

second objection, Borg-
developed the Type 45, an
em designed specially for
one and two litres capa-
2 and as so often happens,
a component firm was
ically by car manufac-
Chrysler UK eventually
age and now offers the
in optional extra on its
venger ranges. I tried the
top Avenger, the GLS,



The Hillman Avenger GLS automatic, lively and well equipped.

napics have only three
a fine for bigger-engined
ample low-speed torque
tive with a small engine.
The Type 45 transmission
four gears and thus the
a manual box. There is
ling that performance is
ed or that the worn gear
and unless the changes are
ly hard, the changes at
1 mph are smooth and
the kicdown needs only
l and responds immedi-
ately selector is available
in first gear, second third
ary; for a long hill climb
en Borg-warner is needed

0 to 60 mph acceleration in just over
12 seconds and a top speed of about
95 mph. The car feels quick and has
ample power, augmented if necessary
by the kicdown, for overtaking.

Handling is good, the car stays firm
on the road with little pitch or roll,
and though the ride is a little choppy
as the road surface changes, it is
smooth and comfortable. The steering
is light and precise and the car has a
good turning circle. Wind and engine
noise does start to become intrusive
above 60 mph. I obtained an average
fuel consumption on four-star petrol
of 25 miles to the gallon.

Accommodation is about adequate for
four people and there is a useful boot.
The instruments are clearly sized and
easy to read and I like the drum-shaped
switches on either side of the steering
wheel which work the lights and
screen wipers. The GLS is equipped
with a vinyl roof, sports road wheels,
brushed metal hubcaps, brushed
nylon upholstery. It costs £1,553.

Cutting costs
Though it was planned long before
the energy crisis and soaring petrol
prices forced us to think hard about
the cost of running our cars, the A.A.'s
big new book, "Money-Saving Motor-
ing", could hardly have appeared at
a better time. The title may be a

tongue-twister but it adequately de-
scribes the contents: there are sections
on getting the most miles to the gal-
lon, buying, selling and hiring, and a
particularly good guide to insurance.
But the heart of the book is a com-
prehensive do-it-yourself guide to ser-
vicing and repairs.

Judging by the popularity of local
authority car maintenance classes,
more and more motorists are trying to
save garage bills by doing their own
work on the car. The AA's book
makes a good complement to a car
maintenance course or it can be used
on its own. But I would sound a word
of warning. There are many jobs
which the amateur can perform ade-
quately with no specialised training;
equally there are areas which are
best left to the expert, and it is
essential to know where to draw the
line. It would be ironic indeed if the
well-meaning but misguided efforts of
do-it-yourselfers, encouraged by
"Money-Saving Motoring", led to
more calls for the AA's breakdown
service.

being said, the book is very
well done, wide-ranging, clearly writ-
ten and abundantly illustrated: there
can be few motorists who will not re-
cover its price of £4.50 many times
over.

Peter Waymark

leasting

intellectual treat as the seldom appearing but always redoubtable Professor Bauer
t again against foreign aid in See It This Way (BBC2 7.32). Sam, the Yorkshire
a, trudges on through the local elections though some of the cast not actually
or election could well top your own acting poll (ITV 8.30). Alternatively you may
leau Brummell film just dandy (BBC2 5.40). The World Cup (BBC1 2.30 and
as boosted the BBC1 children's programmes on to BBC2, notable today for the return
resdel as a witch (BBC2 5.15). —L.B.

BBC 2
6.40 am. Open University: Microeconomics, 7.05. Close-
down, 11.00-11.25. Play School, 8.00 pm. On Union Square, 8.25. Early Years School, 8.50. Cartoon, 9.00. Play School, 9.45. Marco Polo, 10.00. School, 10.45. Blue Peter, 10.55. Lizzie Dripping: part 1, 11.00. The Wombles, 11.15. Film: Beau Brummell, with Elizabeth Taylor. Stewart Granger, Peter Ustinov, Robert Maxwell. 7.30. News. 7.52. See It This Way: Foreign Aid. 8.00. The Pallisers: part 21. 8.30. The Pallisers: part 21. 9.25. Show of the Week: James Last. 10.10. The Adventurer in Light: the French Impressionists and their Influence. Part 5: Northern Lights. 11.00. The Wombles, Extra, followed by Weather.

Southern
12.00. Southern News. 12.05. The Wombles, 12.10. Women Only, 12.15. The Wombles, 12.20. The Wombles, 12.25. The Wombles, 12.30. The Wombles, 12.35. The Wombles, 12.40. The Wombles, 12.45. The Wombles, 12.50. The Wombles, 12.55. The Wombles, 13.00. The Wombles, 13.05. The Wombles, 13.10. The Wombles, 13.15. The Wombles, 13.20. The Wombles, 13.25. The Wombles, 13.30. The Wombles, 13.35. The Wombles, 13.40. The Wombles, 13.45. The Wombles, 13.50. The Wombles, 13.55. The Wombles, 14.00. The Wombles, 14.05. The Wombles, 14.10. The Wombles, 14.15. The Wombles, 14.20. The Wombles, 14.25. The Wombles, 14.30. The Wombles, 14.35. The Wombles, 14.40. The Wombles, 14.45. The Wombles, 14.50. The Wombles, 14.55. The Wombles, 15.00. The Wombles, 15.05. The Wombles, 15.10. The Wombles, 15.15. The Wombles, 15.20. The Wombles, 15.25. The Wombles, 15.30. The Wombles, 15.35. The Wombles, 15.40. The Wombles, 15.45. The Wombles, 15.50. The Wombles, 15.55. The Wombles, 16.00. The Wombles, 16.05. 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shanties at stalls of Ebute suburb Lagos vely as with geria. This bur- cost- being vamp- sure- World- rival- for- the- base- to provide the motive power for steady and accel- erating growth.

Nigeria's gross domestic product advanced last year at a rate of about 7 per cent, and although this was below the 9.6 per cent growth recorded the previous year it compared favourably with pre-1970 levels. The country's economic growth has in recent years been fuelled by the revenue from her oil exports and this will continue for some time.

The petroleum sector last year accounted for 83 per cent of Nigeria's exports which, including re-exports, amounted to N2,226.6m, compared with N1,432.2m the previous year, representing a rise of more than 55 per cent. Oil production in Nigeria last year amounted to some 750 million barrels, which pushed the country into seventh place among world oil producers.

In the current year, Nigeria, which supplies Britain about 12 per cent of its oil requirements, can expect a revenue from petroleum to show a sharp rise. The change earnings from this h. the policy adopted by sector rose to N31.5m counter members of the Opec- tion of Petroleum Export- Countries, was virtually bled last November, and at N218.5m. he beginning of this year- raised again to \$14.69 a barrel. The higher price, and N990.1m in 1972 to N1,234m additional inflow of last year—the main items resulting from the re- being industrial raw mate- y increased state held- rials, cars, transport equip- re state-owned Nigerian ment, food, durable con- al Oil Company in for- sumer goods and capital



The marina and customs sheds at Lagos—gateway to Africa's most populous country and the site of next year's second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture.

equipment. The increase in import bills was more than offset by the rise in export earnings, so that the country last year managed to effect a substantial increase in the visible trade balance from N441.1m in 1972 to N992.6m last year. Small wonder that trade missions are flocking to Nigeria.

Agriculture's contribution in recent years has fallen markedly—although the industry accounts for 70 per cent of employment—as a result of the effects of drought in the northern states on the southern fringes of the Sahara. Last year the groundnut crop realized an estimated 600,000 tons, compared with 785,000 tons the previous year.

The cocoa crop fell from 254,000 tons to an estimated 245,000 tons and although there was a slight improvement in the cotton crop, the textile industry faces a shortage which almost certainly will mean mill closures.

Meanwhile, apart from agriculture, considerable revenue from oil is being used in the development of a more diversified industrial base. Under the second development plan, which has been extended for one year to next April, nearly N3,200m will be spent on reconstruction and development, particularly on intermediate industries and an increase in the output of domestic industry.

Under the third national plan, the guidelines for which were issued before the upheavals in the international oil industry and the huge increase in oil prices, Nigeria will seek to achieve a compound annual growth rate of 9.8 per cent over the 1975-80 period. Gross domestic product, according to the guidelines, is projected to rise from N8,152m in 1975 to N11,957m by the end of the five-year period, with the main emphasis of the programme being placed on agriculture, industry, transport and education. If gdp is valued at constant (1962-63) factor costs, the average rate of growth during the five-year period is likely to be about 7.8 per cent.

Although petroleum provides such a formidable impetus to economic growth at present, it is recognized that agriculture will remain basic to the Nigerian economy and its development in the foreseeable future.

Meanwhile, apart from agriculture, considerable revenue from oil is being used in the development of a more diversified industrial base. Under the second development plan, which has been extended for one year to next April, nearly N3,200m will be spent on reconstruction and development, particularly on intermediate industries and an increase in the output of domestic industry.

Under the third national plan, the guidelines for which were issued before the upheavals in the international oil industry and the huge increase in oil prices, Nigeria will seek to achieve a compound annual growth rate of 9.8 per cent over the 1975-80 period. Gross domestic product, according to the guidelines, is projected to rise from N8,152m in 1975 to N11,957m by the end of the five-year period, with the main emphasis of the programme being placed on agriculture, industry, transport and education. If gdp is valued at constant (1962-63) factor costs, the average rate of growth during the five-year period is likely to be about 7.8 per cent.

The Government acknowledges that the objectives of the third plan are likely to be faced with difficulties through shortages of administrative experience and technical skills. Considerable attention will be focused on export industries and what government planners refer to as "non-traditional export industries".

"A new attitude and approach to export industries is necessary in Nigeria", the planners say. "This country is blessed with a potentially large domestic market, a leading role within her cluster of development experience, a substantial bargaining leverage within the world community and a generous endowment with human and non-human resources—including mineral oil, which is held at a premium in the world market. The call for a new attitude also finds justification from a dynamic interpretation of comparative advantage. This interpretation enables a country to choose an area or a few areas in which its resources and efforts are concentrated in order to make a success of the ventures."

The planners argue that Nigeria should make a major effort in competing with the advanced industrial nations in non-traditional industries such as petrochemicals, plastics, cooling systems (including air conditioners, fans, refrigeration equipment and compressors), simple machinery and equipment, particularly small-scale agricultural machinery, tools, pumps, automobile parts and similar items. Under the third plan major projects will be geared both to the home market and also to developing new export markets—beyond the Dabomey, Niger, Cameroun, Chad, Upper Volta axis—since experience has shown that projects conceived with only the Nigerian market in view have failed to satisfy even this market."

The guidelines foresee the possibility of changing from traditional exports—mainly agricultural and semi-processed agricultural products—to non-traditional exports. These include rubber-based exports, palm produce based exports such as feeds

and proteins from palm kernels, cocoa cake and butter.

In addition, the Federal Government has said that it will intensify the search for additional mineral resources within Nigeria. Geophysical surveys covering about half the country are scheduled to be completed within the current financial year, and the results of these surveys could well present Nigeria with additional sources of valuable foreign earnings and complement the income from oil.

For the immediate future the possibility of a return to civilian rule is the main issue. General Gowon indicated in 1970 that he would restore civilian rule by 1976 and would allow political parties to emerge once more. Whether this will happen remains to be seen. Political manoeuvring is already taking place, some of the former politicians are busy in the background, and there are many who would like to see General Gowon installed as president on a return to civilian rule, with the substantial army remaining in the background as a check on the politicians.

On the other hand there are those who consider that the recent coup in adjacent Niger may have served to remind the military that it is inadvisable to outstay their welcome—and longevity is not a characteristic of African administrations.

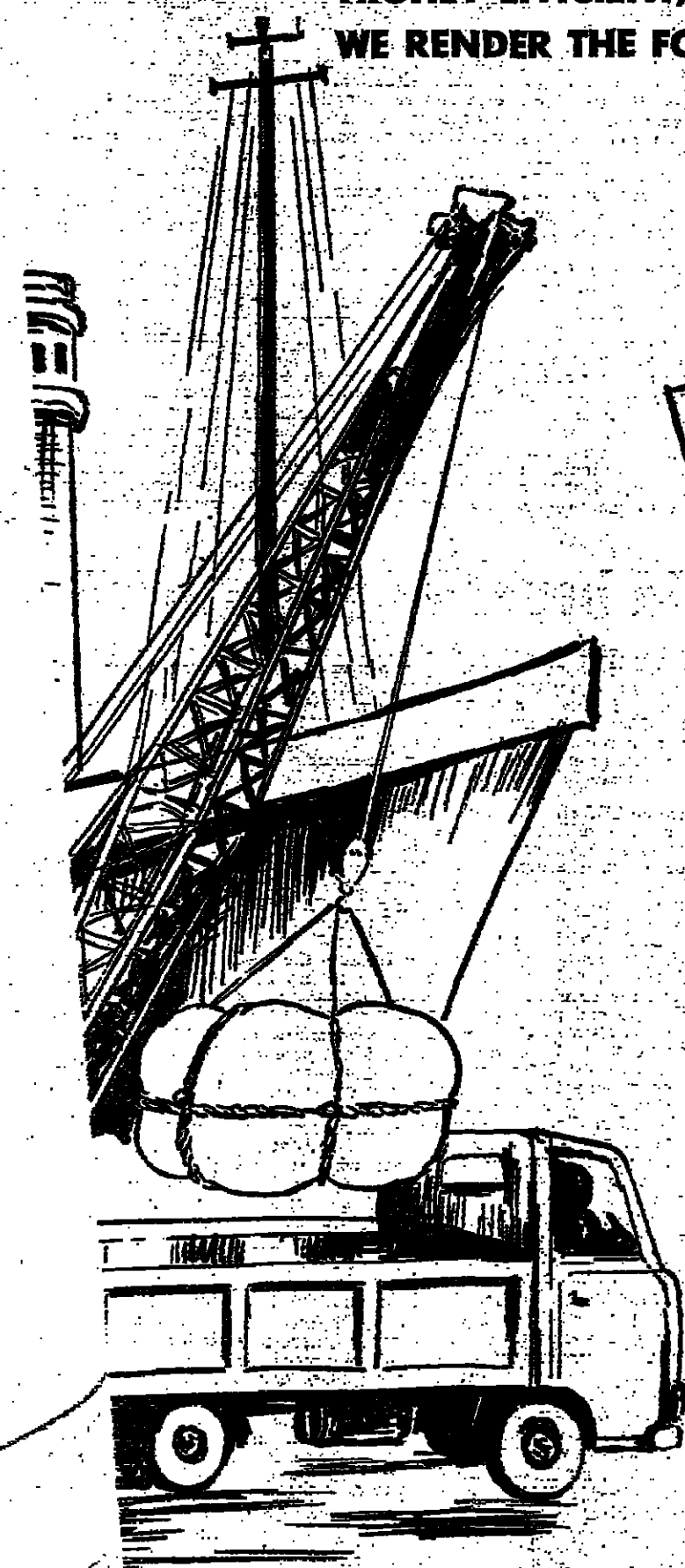
Political stability is crucial if Nigeria's economic aspirations are to be achieved and if it wishes to continue to set the pace in Africa's relations with the rest of the world and to attract the foreign investment that is still needed, despite the oil boom.

This is the sixth in a series of Special Reports on export corridors, which will include:

Brazil June 20
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Increased oil receipts pose problem of priorities

by Alan Hutchison
African Development

The revenue prospects in the present year for any country which expects that crude oil will contribute about 85 per cent of foreign exchange earnings can hardly be anything but excellent, but as General Gowon remarked during his budget speech, "Nigeria is not yet a rich country".

The recent huge increases in oil receipts do not present the same "problem" to Nigeria, with a population of 56 million as they do to the small Gulf states. Although, doubtless, European merchant bankers will continue to knock on the door of the Central Bank offering to manage the relatively small estimated foreign exchange surplus, there will not be great tranches of Nigerian oil money moving around the world's money markets seeking an indication of home and upsetting the international monetary equilibrium in the process.

Nigeria is well able to use all the money it earns, and the economic debate centres simply on domestic priorities.

Under the federal system each of the 12 states collects its own internal revenue and in addition is allocated a central government fund, on the basis of population. Hence the crucial importance of an accurate census.

The frequently acrimonious debate on revenue allocation is usually concerned with the prospects to receive, and to be increased, from the Government. The real fighting begins with the next stage in the allocations, from the state governments to their various divisions. Here the potential for favouritism is far greater than in the impersonal memoranda passed from civil servants in

the state capitals to those in Lagos, and passions become aroused on this issue.

This year's allocations to the states, doubled to N626m, reflect Nigeria's prosperity, and in particular the increase in oil earnings, of which the states, through a mechanism known as the distributable pool account, are beneficiaries. In addition, grants amounting to N350m have been set aside by the Government for this states Government for educational, agricultural, health, water supply and low-cost housing programmes; and a further N150m is to be raised by the issue of a Development Loan Stock, all the proceeds of which will be passed on to the state governments.

Up to now, with the single exception of the Mid-Western State, no state has been able to balance its budget. Federal subsidies have been necessary, especially to the northern states that have been affected by the drought. It is possible that this year's state allocations will ease the states' financial situation, but whether it does or not the former situation whereby the states were rich and therefore powerful and the central government was poor has been reversed. One would think accordingly, and pursue strings reside in Lagos, a new phenomenon with considerable political implications.

The new economic "imbalance", or perhaps more accurately one should say the new monopolist position of Lagos in the economic decision-making machinery since all states benefit from federal expenditure, is illustrated by the federal estimates for the financial year 1974-75: N626m to the states; N2,496m for the Government, with which

capital budget estimates at N239m; labour and sports, N105m; police, N674m; trade, N58m; transport, N154m; works and housing, N480m.

Nigeria has not escaped the consequences of world inflation more easily than any other country. A lot of food and goods, a further twist to the inflationary spiral has been given by the drought in the north, the traditional food-producing area, necessitating even greater food imports than normal.

The Government has therefore decided to use its increased oil receipts to combat domestic inflation by subsidising the cost of essential commodities. The reduction in the price of rice, for example, from N10 per cwt to N8 per cwt, is a welcome move. The reduction in the price of maize, from N12 per cwt to N10 per cwt, is also a welcome move. The reduction in the price of sorghum, from N12 per cwt to N10 per cwt, is also a welcome move.

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No one is happy with a situation in which a country suffering from no external military threat spends 30 per cent of its budget on soldiers, sailors and airmen. The huge army, probably numbering more than 200,000 men, is a legacy of the civil war and its aftermath in a country suffering from high unemployment presents appalling problems.

Most Nigerian civilians have a few things to say about the usefulness of the forces, and about the effectiveness of the defence. No one is fooled by the military government, and that is the only reason why it has one of the world's largest standing armies.

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Britain loses potential markets by default

In September a "hard-selling" mission from London Chambers of Commerce, with members extending from heavy engineering to cosmetics manufacturers, will visit Nigeria to seek out new customers in black Africa's fastest growing market.

The pattern of Anglo-Nigerian trade has recently undergone a radical reorientation, with large British firms of traditional trade in goods, being directed instead to France and Germany.

The deficit will in any case be widened in the current year as the full effects of the triple price of oil work their way into the trade figures. Britain, however, will remain a substantial gainer on the invisible account; British oil, shipping and insurance companies were certainly the main beneficiaries of Nigeria's N773m invisible deficit in 1973.

Nigeria's trading partners too have been revolutionized by oil revenue, which now accounts for more than 85 per cent of all export earnings. It was fortunate that oil revenue started flowing when it did, because the amount of exportable commodities has been steadily declining in the past few years, with the drought in the north recently dealing a further blow to the production of groundnuts and

cotton. In the days when Nigeria could be approached about a million ton market, annual revenue from exports of groundnuts and related products like groundnut cake and groundnut oil topped N100m.

Last season the groundnut crop was down to about 150,000 tons and this year the oil price has been prohibited altogether. However, revenue from the non-oil sector in 1973 rose from 1972's N218m to N313m, a rise solely attributable to the increase in world prices for commodities and notably for cocoa.

Oil revenue has changed the import picture too, allowing the importation of 1972, the last year for which detailed statistics are available, of N53,131 worth of goods. Imports of such essential items as sugar and milk have tripled in the last five years, and in the current year, because of the drought situation, the importation of large quantities of rice and maize.

Oil wealth has not, however, led to an extravagant consumption of conspicuous goods of lace, whisky, groceries and luxury items have been imported to cater for increasingly sophisticated tastes, and a Kano businessman happily speaking of Nigeria's "Rolle-Royce" to import.

Oil, finally, has affected the direction of Nigerian exports. In 1968 the United States imported goods worth about N35m from Nigeria, mostly rubber, cocoa and goat skins. But in 1972 the United States became Nigeria's second most important export market, after Britain, importing Nigerian goods worth N58m.

As for the civil war, which the Soviet Union took a strongly anti-Federal line and supplied the Government with military equipment, it was widely expected that the communist-backed countries would radically increase their share of Nigerian trade. That this has not happened to any large extent may reflect Federal disengagement with allegedly poor terms offered by the Russians in their arms deals, but it is probably a reflection of the fact that Nigeria is, fundamentally, a capitalist country.

This is not to suggest that it is in the western camp—in its leaders' minds it is plain that politically speaking Nigeria's objective is to remain non-aligned—but its officials and businessmen are by now so accustomed to western practices, to the western way of doing business and, practically, to western machinery, language and training, that a major reorientation in trade to

an existing infrastructure West Africa this year means Ivory Coast and Senegal, the two most advanced states. A strong central board would be set up to coordinate the economic development of the region and to encourage trade.

Significantly, they saw no contradiction at the Lome meeting between CEA and WAEC or between the various other agreements that the countries are involved in. One of the principal problems was membership of the franc zone, but recent modifications in the agreements over parity between the Community and the French franc have improved the possibilities.

This points up the improvements that have been made in communication links with Nigeria's neighbours in the past two years including the road from Idiroko to Porto Novo in Gabon; the river link from Port Harcourt to Baya in Niger; and the easing of transport rates between Nigeria and Niger, Togo and Senegal.

Any of these are calculated to assist in the formation of the WAEC. This long-term linkages that would be formed between the EC and French speaking states in West Africa. A block of the new EC, which is not interested in the rigid formalism of the EC, is able to make its weight felt in the world's basic commodities markets. Furthermore, there is a tendency for the EC to be able to deal with areas where there is already on a much more equal basis

EEC link would benefit agricultural exports

by Patrick Gillies

Nigeria has to a considerable degree acted as spokesman for Africa in the negotiations over possible future association with Europe. There is a certain surprise in this, for Nigeria, as the largest and richest country in black Africa, is not obviously need the EEC.

Because of its oil it has a substantial and increasing balance of payments surplus. With production running at more than two million barrels a day and oil providing, especially at present prices, enormous sums for development in other areas, the economy certainly looks healthy.

However, in the agricultural sector, which now provides a quarter of export earnings and in which most of the population are engaged either directly or through agricultural processing, the picture is not nearly so satisfactory.

Agricultural exports were substantially down in 1971 and 1972; the gain in 1973, due to higher commodity prices, was offset to some extent by the effects of the drought and the increases in value not in quantity.

This would provide an increase in value of about 10 per cent on an estimated export value of between N20m and N30m (between £12m and £19m) in 1973. Although this was a serious failure, other groundnut and palm products have no EEC tariff.

Cocoa is more significant, though, and this, too, is likely to be done sharply because of the drought and other climatic conditions. From the N120m (£7m) in 1972, the EEC tariff on cocoa is 51 per cent, and removal of this would obviously benefit the cocoa export to Europe and possibly enlarge Nigeria's market.

At the moment most of the EEC's preferences are predominantly on manufactured goods and this would only affect Nigeria marginally. None of this is substantial, even with the present high commodity prices.

Factor that would make a great difference is if the EEC commission's commodity proposals were accepted, Nigeria's imports were 32 per cent and 25 per cent from Britain and the EEC. This is why Nigeria has taken so much interest in the African approach to Europe. Nevertheless, and at the same time, there are possibilities to increase cooperation with Togo in the EC.

In December 1973, all the West African states except Guinea and Guinea, agreed to set up a WAEC. Some of the French-speaking states are already on a much more equal basis

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Massive reserves of natural gas are a virtually untapped source of revenue

reserves of natural gas has been estimated at 2,223 million cu ft. In 1971, Nigerian natural gas production was estimated at 141,000 million cu ft while reserves rose from 1,700 million cu ft in 1965 to 40,000,000 million cu ft at the beginning of 1972. In view of the number of oil fields discovered since then, this total is now considered to be much greater. At that time, therefore, Nigeria accounted for about 3.4 per cent of world reserves of potentially exportable natural gas. This compares with 1.7 per cent for Canada and some 17.3 per cent for Iran.

The extent of the wastage of Nigerian natural gas can be gauged from a simple rule of thumb calculation based on a 1,000 cu ft of gas against 100 barrels of oil produced. On the basis of a present daily Nigerian production of 2,300,000 barrels of oil some 2,300 million cu ft of gas is being flared off daily. Industries in Lagos calculate that some 98 per cent of gas reserves are flared off with only a minute 2 per cent being used either by the oil companies in their oil

exploration and production activities or through its sale to one or three customers in the Port Harcourt area. More specifically, last October, but of a gas production of 2,223 million cu ft a day, only about 13 million cu ft was sold. During the same month, Shell BP, the major oil producing company operating in Nigeria, was estimated to have had a daily gas production of some 800 million cu ft while Gulf Oil, the second largest oil producer, had an estimated gas production level of some 353 million cu ft.

Thus with more than 2,200 million cu ft of gas being flared off daily in Nigeria it is a little surprising that the Government has not acted rather more quickly in harnessing and using such a valuable energy resource, particularly since waste on this scale is equivalent to about a third of the country's daily energy production.

Within Nigeria natural gas is piped from gas fields near power stations at Afam and Ughelli while some towns are able to use gas as a fuel source. Gas is also used by the Michelin factory and the glass industry at Port Harcourt from supplies piped from the large Apapa field.

Somewhat ironically with all the gas lurking beneath the surface, Nigeria has to import a substantial volume of liquid gas to meet the sharp rise in demand for gas for cooking and domestic purposes. This is not to say that the Government and the oil companies have been oblivious to the potential for Nigerian natural gas which is principally located in the Rivers and Mid-Western states. Over the past four or five years a large number of plans have been advanced for the establishment of gas collection, liquefaction and export terminals and discussions have taken place on most of them. The indications are now that a decision on one or more plants will be forthcoming from the Federal Government before the end of the summer, based on a short list of four from the original dozen or so proposed projects.

In his April budget speech, General Gowon said: "To increase our export earnings from petroleum products, further consideration will be given to the various proposals already received on the construction of export-oriented refineries. In addition, studies which are being conducted into the gathering, liquefaction and export of gas as well as its conversion

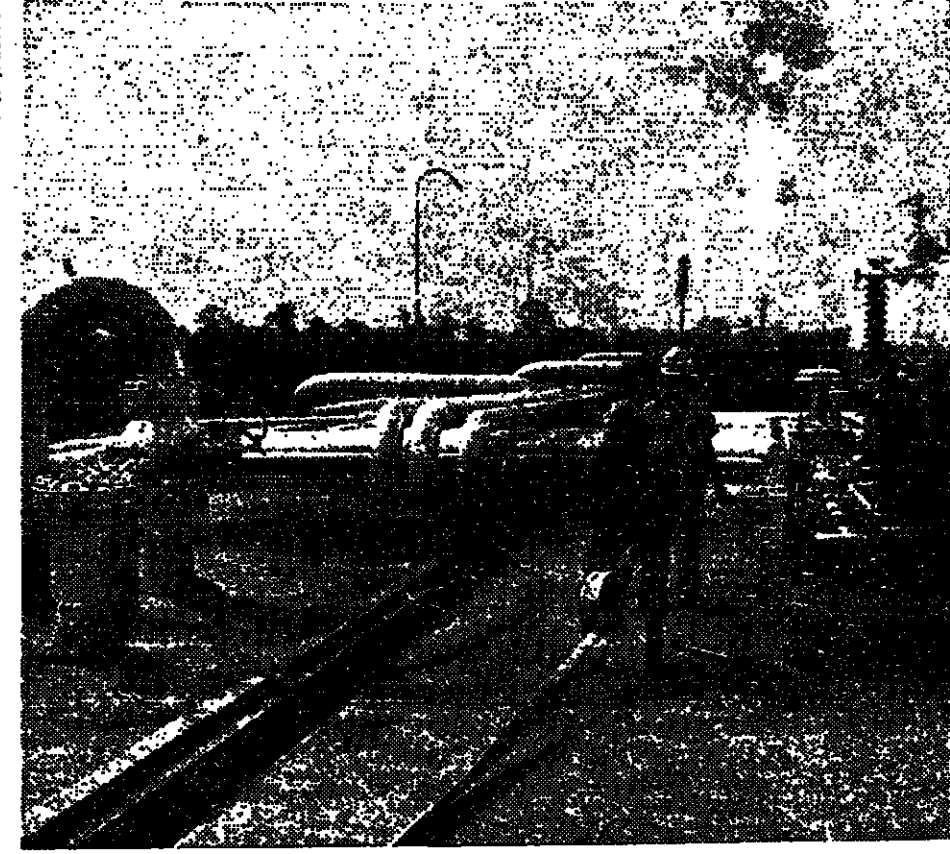
into petrochemicals have certainly been the United States. It is possible that about 20 specialized LNG carrying ships could be employed in the Nigerian gas export trade by the middle of the next decade.

Several matters have to be clarified before the projects get off the ground including the participation stake taken by the Nigerian Government although if it follows the pattern of oil participation this is expected to be 55 per cent. There is then the question of the financing of the schemes, the question of who will own or operate the ships required for the transportation of the gas and the proportion of gas to be used domestically, and the price.

There is little doubt that Nigeria could be quickly in a position of exporting more gas than it is currently producing and given early decisions on the nature and scale of the first LNG plants by the beginning of the next decade gas exports could be providing a huge additional source of revenue. At a later stage the development of export-oriented refineries will supplement this revenue and as one oilman observed, "the prospects are enormous".

Sherrima Ali Monguno, the Commissioner for Mines and Power, earlier this year reaffirmed the Government's intention to construct a liquefied gas plant at a cost of N800m with a daily capacity of 1,000 million cu ft. It is understood that the four projects shortlisted by the Government are those advanced by Shell BP; Gulf; Agip-Phillips; and Tenneco. Shell BP, which has recently undertaken a revision of its plans and estimates, is apparently thinking in terms of a liquefaction plant with a capacity of more than 1,000 million cu ft of gas a day probably to be located at Bonny, with the whole project including ships costing more than \$1,000m and using gas from its fields in eastern Nigeria.

Gulf's project (likely to be based at Escravos) is thought to be smaller involving an investment of more than \$500m with a plant capacity in the first phase of about 550 million cu ft of gas a day. Export markets for both projects would almost



Gas flares form the backdrop to this oil pumping station in Rivers State. Such wastage could soon cease as the search for alternative energy sources intensifies.

census will indicate what sort of civilian government can be expected

in every five on an continent is a Lagos. In the fast-growing capital city in Eastern Nigeria is densely populated lack Africa, and is on the continent Johannesburg and ons. These already what is known is after the census is precisely how up live in Niger states—or exactly live.

about the Nige without knowi is like describ match in igno the final score—but uses patterns can be and tentative con drawn before, to the metaphor, the is blown.

vious census was November, 1963. ed that there were Nigerians. Assum per cent growth year and making s for the ravages of war, a final figure er 70 million could y be expected. Dr Okon, a Nigerian expert, has pred-

icted a population of 76,700,000. Whatever result the Central Bank computer finally comes up with, it seems likely that it will be anything but an undercount—scattered populations, inaccessible areas, and deliberate evasions (many people regard any government statistical exercise as a preliminary to tax demands) will see to that.

It would also be as well to add that any predictions based upon the 1963 census returns could prove wildly inaccurate. That census came immediately before the first post-independence elections in 1964, and the figures were regarded by many as politically manoeuvred: they revealed that nearly 30 million people lived in the northern states, compared with 9,500,000 in the Western State and 12,300,000 in the Eastern State. Many non-northerners, boycotted the elections, in which only four million of the 15 million electorate returned to power the northern-dominated Nigerian National Alliance. The census therefore set in train the subsequent series of coups and counter-coups, over 360,000 sq miles of

territory, covering desert, scrubland, forest, swamp, and urban areas to count the population. They travelled by bus, by horse, on foot, in canoes and by helicopter, and every person they counted had an indelible ink mark put on his or her thumb to avoid multiple counting.

The census operation itself was not without its difficulties. What, for example, could more vividly illustrate the problems of urban overcrowding than the three days taken to count 300 inmates of one house in Ikoro Road, Lagos?

Then there were the religious objections of Muslims to what many regarded as an encroachment on *purdah*. These were overcome by the appointment of women enumerators in northern areas, and where they were not available, Muslim women were counted, heavily veiled, in the presence of their husbands who themselves carried out the dubbing of their wives' thumbs.

Road blocks were set up to ensure that people did not move for census purposes from their place of residence to their home areas—the

point being, of course, that planners must know where people are actually living in order to provide appropriate amenities. Local chiefs had asked their absent populations to return home for the purpose of the count, hoping thereby to swell future allocations. In the circumstances the count went as smoothly as could be expected, although it seems inevitable that the final figures will be challenged by one group or another; they will have to do so silently, however (as if that were possible in the most vocal society in Africa), since debate on the results has been officially banned.

What demographic patterns, useful equally to administrators, economic planners, investors, distributors and industrialists, is the census likely to reveal? Almost certainly it will emphasize the accelerating urbanization of Nigeria. Like most developing countries Nigeria in the past decade has seen an alarming urban explosion, with the apparent opportunities of the towns proving an irresistible attraction to young people in the country, frustrated by their traditional way of life

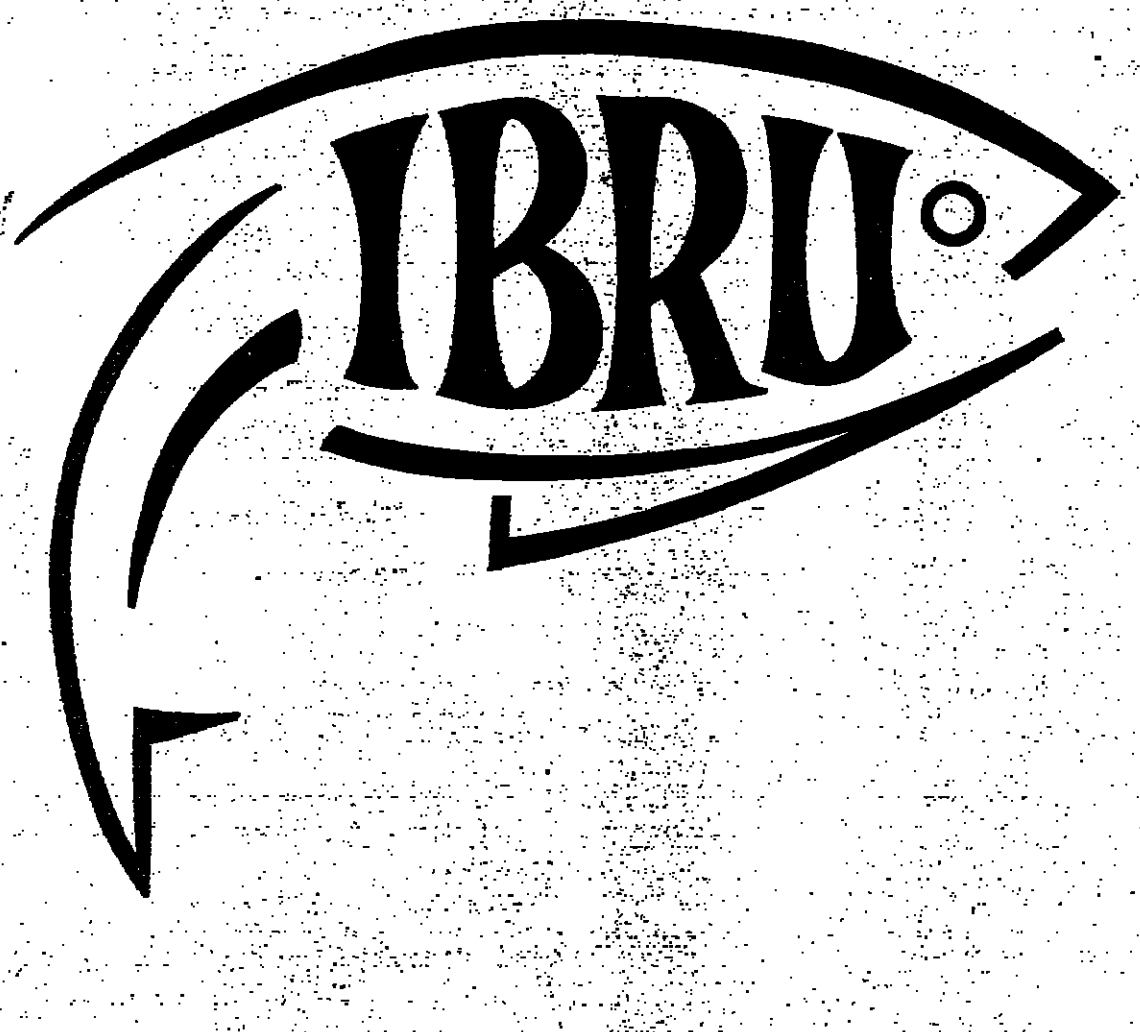
and by poor living standards. Lagos is growing at an estimated 1 1/2 per cent a year; Ibadan's population is well over a million; more than three million people live within 50 miles of Kano; in the east formerly small market towns like Onitsha, Aba, Enugu and Owerri measure their populations in hundreds of thousands, and their services creak under the weight of ever-increasing immigration from the surrounding countryside. Accurate figures on urban population will bring home the gravity of the situation, in a way that the present estimates cannot.

The census will also show whether, as seems likely, the Sahelian drought has resulted in a southward population drift. Economists will seize on trends such as these to determine resource allocation, siting of new industries, routes of new roads and so forth. But the majority of Nigerians will be making political calculations—and legal or not, discussing the implications of "how many?" and "where?"

Despite the ravages of the civil war, a population total in excess of 70 million is expected in the census. Here General Gowon and his family are included in the count.



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Drastic measures needed to revitalize agriculture

by Alan Hutchinson

Agriculture, for so long the mainstay of the Nigerian economy, has now become the poor relation of oil. In addition to what one might call the usual African disadvantages—poor soil, a conservative peasantry, government indifference, drift to the towns and a poorly conceived pricing system for export crops—it has been badly affected in recent years by the Sahelian drought.

It is little wonder, therefore, that present production of both food and cash crops is at the lowest level for more than 10 years, large imports of essential foods have been sanctioned, the export of groundnuts has been banned, and drastic short-term and long-term measures to revitalize the whole industry are being propagated.

Relief, paradoxically, has come in the form of greatly increased revenues from the export of commodities, which at N131m for 1973 were 30 per cent above the figure for the previous year. The rise is accounted for solely by worldwide prices, notably for cocoa. The "significant recovery" of export crops, to which General Gowon somewhat ambiguously referred in his budget speech, occurred not in Nigeria but in London.

The decline of agriculture has had repercussions all down the line. For example, the shipping companies have been in a quandary about the imbalance of Nigerian trade; oil wealth has enabled the country to import large quantities of capital and consumer goods, but there has been an absolute drop in the volume of produce exported. Ships which come to Lagos fully loaded leave half-empty, a situation bound eventually to have an adverse effect on shipping rates generally.

Further up the line industries dependent on Nigerian raw produce are either almost at a standstill, like the groundnut mills in the north, or are operating unprofitably, like most of the textile mills, forced by falling production to import

raw cotton at high world prices.

The inability of the country to feed itself, made particularly acute in the past two years by the drought in the northern food-producing areas, has necessitated the expenditure of large amounts of foreign exchange on imports of essential foods, such as maize and rice.

Finally, the difficulties of agriculture affect directly every member of the population, whether the 30 per cent who live in the towns and complain bitterly about soaring food prices, or the farmers and their dependants.

Various theories, some credible, some not, have been put forward to explain the agricultural phenomenon: the difficulties of extending rural credit to farmers without a "paper collateral"; resistance of a conservative section of the population to change to modern methods; lack of sufficient government funds and the question of interest; water problems, soil problems, transport problems, and so on.

The one theory that takes into account sufficiently the intelligence of the farming population—which tends to be heavily discounted in Lagos—is that successive crops have given the farmer little incentive to increase, or even maintain, levels of production. With his intelligence held in such low esteem in official circles he expects either to smuggle his produce to countries where he can get a reasonable return for his labours or he simply reverts to subsistence farming.

In the days of civilian politics producer prices were set at a low level, and the various regional governments, who used the difference between the price paid to farmers and the realized price to finance other economic and sometimes political objectives, were reluctant to increase the price. The result was that the farmer, who had to pay for his inputs, was unable to get a reasonable return for his labours or he simply reverts to subsistence farming.

A tacit acknowledgment that the first year's sums were wrong was made in this year's March budget, when all producer prices for commodities were increased, and some, such as for groundnuts, nearly doubled. The new prices, however, are not yet in effect, and the government is expected to make up the loss of revenue to states by subsidies.

to plant more in the present season, so it will be at least a year before the Government is able to determine whether the "new deal" has had any effect.

It is instructive to look at one crop, groundnuts, to see precisely what effects a poor producer price has on the farmer, government revenues and industry. Last season the price for groundnuts, of which Nigeria was once the world's greatest exporter, was N94 a ton (it is N165 this year). The farmers knew that this was unrealistic, and as a result many did not bother to plant groundnuts, preferring to plant food crops for their own use, a wise precaution in view of the drought.

Of the rest many who harvested a crop refused to sell at the producer price, the licensed buying agents, who act as buyers and collectors for the marketing board. Thus in November, at the end of the harvesting season, there were no groundnuts in the market. It is estimated that there would be at least 30,000 tons. Some agents who did manage to persuade farmers to part with their produce either hoarded the nuts or, like many of the farmers, smuggled them across the border to Niger, where a price of N200 a ton could be obtained without argument.

The Federal Government thus forfeited the chance of collecting export tax revenue on a considerable part of the Nigerian crop (in the event there was no tax to collect because in January the ban was placed on the export of groundnuts); an even more galling fact is that Nigeria has to handle through its railway and port system the ostensibly "Niger" groundnut crop.

The drought augmented the catastrophe, with some farmers eating their crop; others, against the odds, managed to produce oil for profitable sale in the market. The result of all this was that Nigeria exported no groundnuts and the many oil mills in the north were unable to meet their commitments; if all are to operate, probably a crop of about a million tons is needed.

A similar pattern can be discerned, with variations, in the other main cash crops. A poor producer price for cocoa results in the smuggling of cocoa across the border to Dahomey. Palm oil production has been on the decline since the civil war disrupted the operation of the big estates in the east. Cotton production, too, has



Mechanization helps to overcome the difficulties of agricultural production.

declined, partly through the drought and partly through a depressed producer price, which has been increased by 50 per cent in the current season.

Measures are slowly being taken both on the state and federal levels to correct the situation. Recurrent export duties on agriculture are put at 10 per cent, while longer-term objectives are reflected in the N104m allocated to agriculture in the capital estimates.

The long-term way to achieve greater food production is, probably, the large-scale project as the Government has indicated. "The Federal Government will develop water resources and now on go into large-scale agricultural production in full force," General Gowon announced in the budget. "In addition, the Federal Government will improve existing storage facilities so as to reduce wastage."

It is a territory fraught with conflict, for large-scale production implies capital-intensive production, whereas the need is to tap the labour force back into agriculture and reverse the drift from the rural areas to the towns. Certain quarters, too, are openly sceptical about the ability of the Government—or, for that matter, any government—to manage any government-owned state farms. Certainly few state-managed farms in Africa as a whole have been successful.

The problem is that the private sector, has shown no great willingness to invest in large-scale agricultural projects, although recently a number of American companies have shown some interest in ranching in the north. The risks appear to be too great and the returns

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Drought restricts textile production

by Peter Hill

Nigeria's textile industry is facing probably its worst year since it was first established on a modern basis in the mid-1950s. Already this year a number of the larger mills have been obliged to put workers on short-time working, to close down production temporarily and in other cases permanently.

The present difficulties stem from the effects of the drought in the northern states that have dramatically reduced the cotton crop over the past three years (although there are other problems). The prospects for the industry—which is the second largest employer of labour in Nigeria after agriculture—in the short term are not encouraging.

Towards the end of April Mr. Mojisola Pinheiro, managing director of the Textile Mills Corporation, described the position as "very serious and unfortunate" when he announced that the company was halting production and sending its workers on compulsory leave because of the shortage of cotton lint. The closures and production cut-backs by many companies prompted the Nigerian Textile Manufacturers' Association to urge the Government and General Gowon to urge the Federal Government to import cotton lint for sale at reasonable prices to the mills.

Mr. Gordon Lovelady, financial director of Kaduna Textiles, one of the largest producers of cotton fabrics in Nigeria, told me that the sources of local cotton would dry up by the end of July. This is the first year that the cotton crop has been inadequate to meet local demand.

The average annual requirement of the Nigerian industry, when all the major production units are running at capacity, is estimated at 400,000 bales. However, the requirement this year was put at 320,000 bales. In fact the supply is likely to be of the order of 160,000 bales and companies are now faced with importing cotton to carry them through the summer—and this means paying considerably higher prices.

This is a significant change from the situation only a few years ago. Before the growth in the domestic textile industry led to increased demand, cotton formed one of the country's important export crops. Production of seed cotton rose from 129,000 tons in 1963-64 to 165,000 tons in 1968-69 and reached a peak of 275,000 tons in 1969-70. Since then it has steadily declined to 115,000 tons in 1970-71 and to 111,000 tons in 1971-72. Over the same period, however, there was a steady

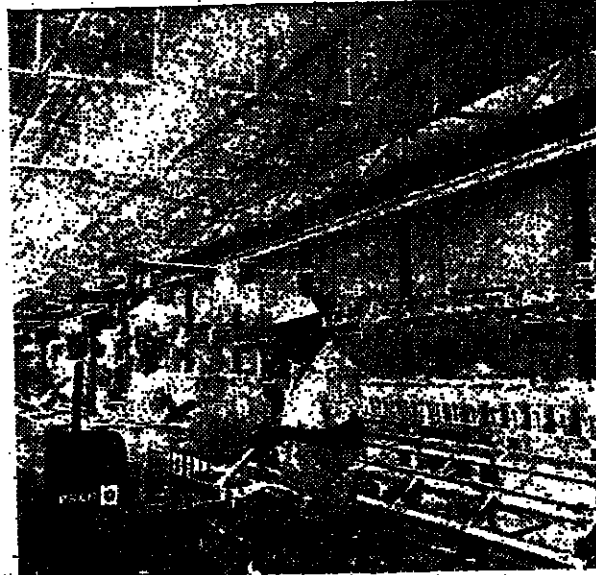
expansion of the cotton textile industry's output. The index of the industry's output (1965 equals 100) rose from 172 in 1965 to 214 in 1969 and, despite a fall to 304 in 1971, from 315 the year a number of the larger mills have been obliged to put workers on short-time working, to close down production temporarily and in other cases permanently.

The recovery in production in 1972 followed the introduction of measures to protect the industry against competition from imported textiles. In the 1973-74 fiscal year higher duties were imposed on imports and there was also a reduction in the tariff imposed on long staple cottons.

The textile industry is centred primarily in the north with the greatest concentration of large production units in Kaduna, although there is further concentration in the south, in the Ikorodu area near Lagos. The presentment of the industry follows a decision by the Government of northern Nigeria in 1955 to set up a local industry using locally grown cotton to produce fabrics as a substitute for the 200 million sq yds of fabric that was being imported at that time. It is estimated that some 35,000 workers are employed in the making-up trade in which remains very much a cottage industry.

Apart from Kaduna Textiles, other major companies include Nigerian Textile Mills, Arewa Textiles, United Nigerian Textiles, Norspin and Norrex. There are other mills in the Kano area and at Ombaka, Aba and Ilorin. The vast majority of production is devoted to cotton fabrics in the form of grey cloth and printed fabrics mainly for the domestic market, and there has been growing use of synthetic fibres, which at present have to be imported.

The industry's present difficulties over shortages of cotton have been compounded by the activities of the Nigeria Produce Marketing Company which became the agency responsible for the sale of raw cotton to the producers in November last year. Previously producers bought from the Northern States Marketing Board. Mill executives have been openly critical of the NPMMC and claim that unnecessary delays are being caused by the purchasing processes now in operation. For two months the NPMMC introduced a two-tier pricing structure in an effort to conserve domestic stocks with a price of 31 kobo per lb being charged for cotton used for supplying the domestic market and 60 kobo for cotton sold to firms producing for both the domestic and export markets.



In spite of reductions in the textile industry this factory at Kano supplying hand and machine knitting yarns expects to increase its work force.

Because of market saturation two years ago many firms stepped up their levels of exports and the effect of the higher NPMMC prices on those firms created serious difficulties. As it is, those firms that are now obliged to seek cotton from overseas will have to import at a price of 45 kobo per lb (carriage, insurance and freight included) at Apapa. In an effort to stimulate farmers to plant more cotton this year and in the future, the Federal Government announced in the budget this year that seed cotton grade 1 would be bought at 9 kobo a lb compared with the previous price of 6 kobo.

In the north, planting takes place between June and August with picking between November and February but the efficacy of this measure is dictated by the level of rainfall during the current rainy season, which in the past few years has been far from wet.

Meanwhile, although industry representatives predictably do not accept the accusation, Nigerian consumers are critical of the industry's products, claiming that prices are high and quality is poor. They have shown a distinct preference in many areas for imported textile goods.

There is a huge trade in smuggled textiles—probably running into millions of square yards annually—which enter the Nigerian market from its neighbours, principally Dahomey and Niger across the extensive frontiers. This, the industry claims, must reduce the ability of the industry to perform effectively. While there have been discussions between governments and all are agreed

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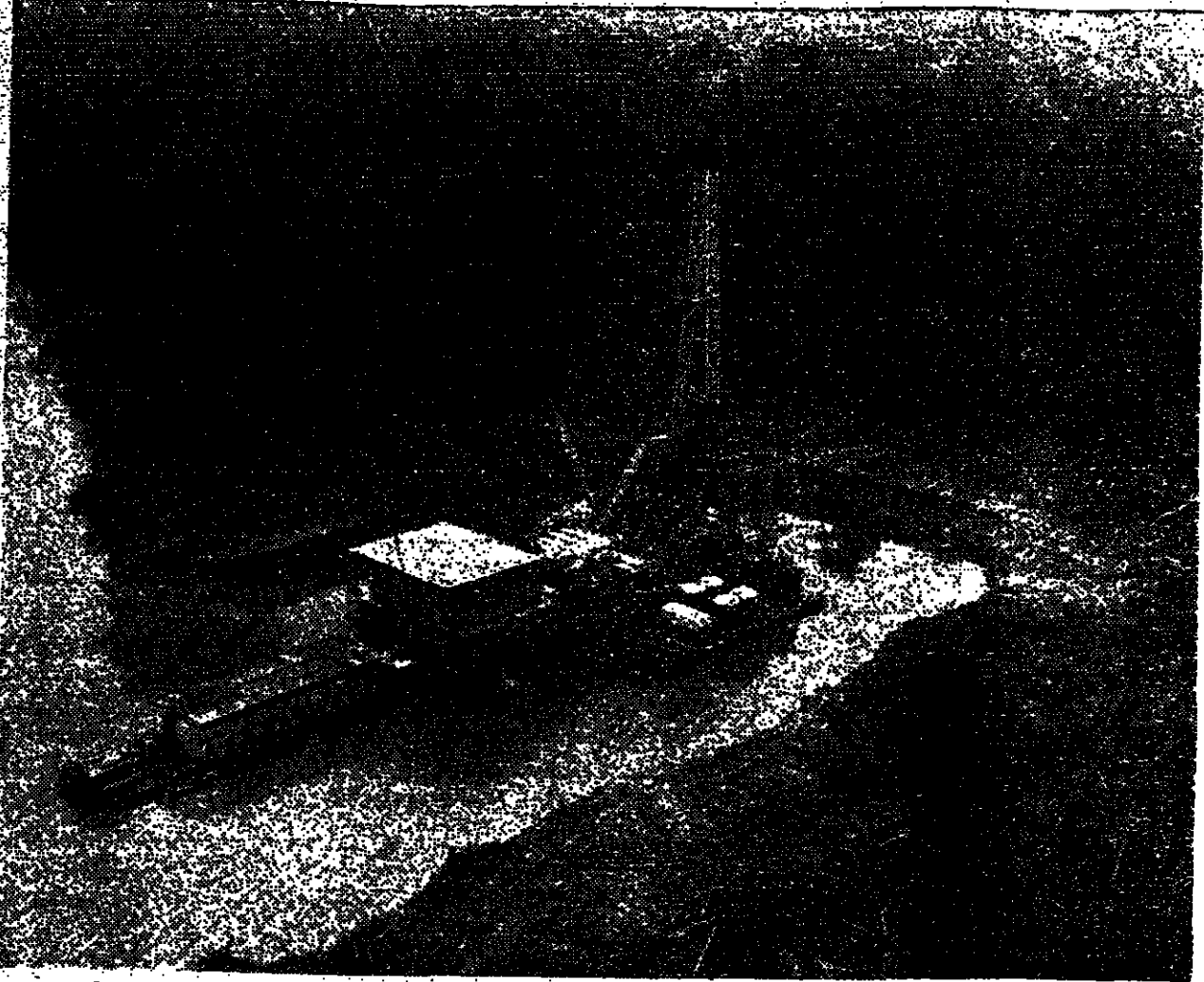
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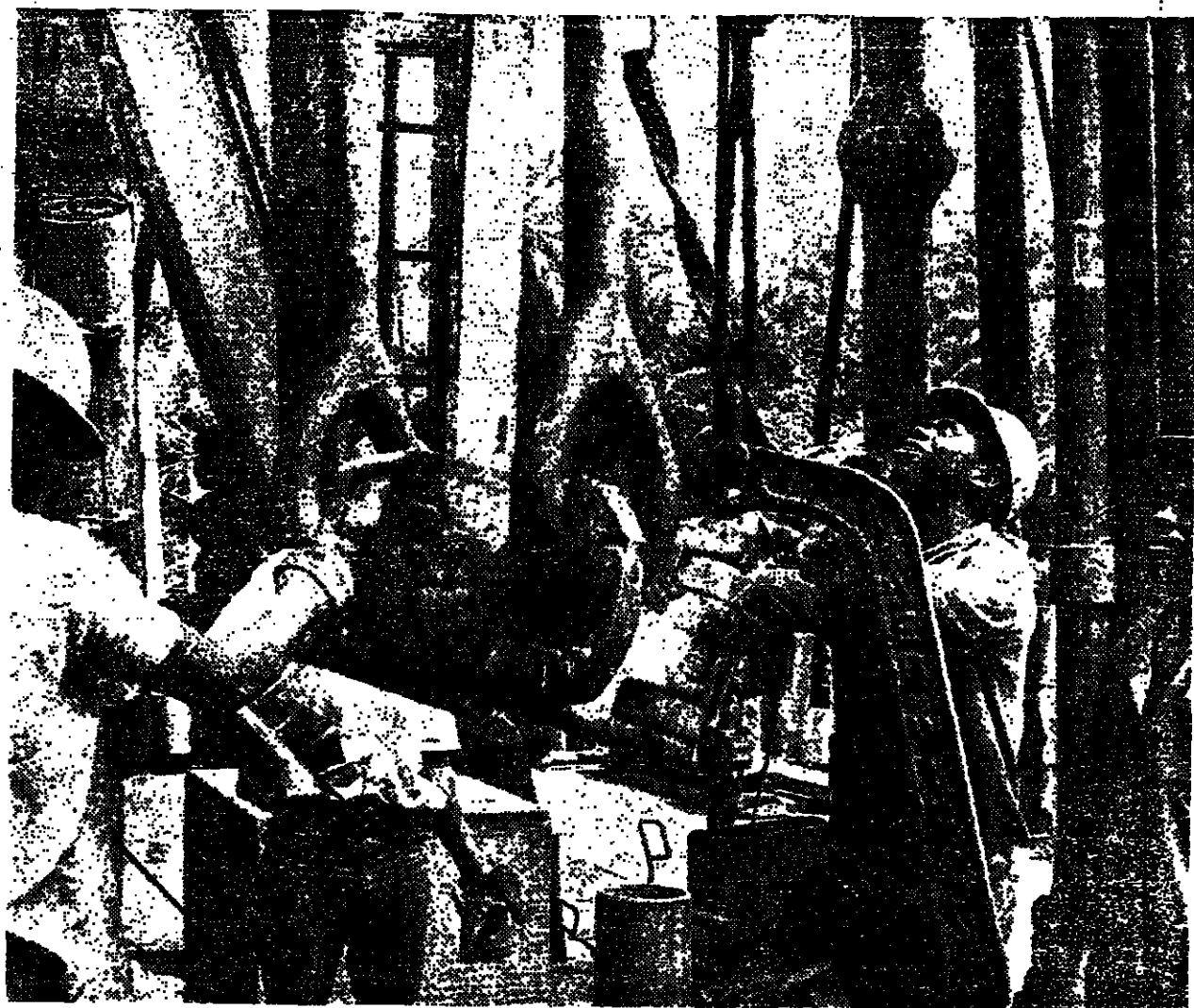
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Oil revenue 'the most important engine of growth' but reserves are limited

In the Hotel Presidential in Port Harcourt there is a casino and a library of one-arm bandits. There is a bar to the foyer that sells cassette recordings of comedy and western music and a clientele as cosmopolitan as anywhere in the world. Port Harcourt, now almost totally recovered from the ravages of the civil war (although some of the scars remain), is a boom town, the hub of the Nigerian oil industry. The government-owned hotel is the cocoon into which the oil men withdraw after their stint on the oil rigs and production platforms in the swamps of the Niger delta or in the shallow waters offshore.



Nigeria's oil industry has developed to a point where it is challenging the much longer established oil producing nations of the Middle East. An oil rig site in Rivers State where (right) Nigerian crewmen are handling drilling equipment.



It is Nigeria's virtually sulphur-free oil that has attracted the big oil companies to the Delta region and which in turn has provided Africa's most populous country with what Count Yakubu Gowon described in his April budget speech as its "most important engine of growth". Oil, and the revenue which flows from it to the Federal Government coffers, is transforming the Nigerian economy, although the Government and the people recognize that oil reserves are finite and that the changes which are being forced on the country must be carefully evaluated.

Nigeria's oil industry has developed to a point where it is now challenging the much longer established oil producing nations of the Middle East. The export of crude oil last year represented some 83 per cent of the total value of Nigeria's exports which amounted to \$2,226.6m while total production of oil in 1973 mounted to an estimated 110 million barrels, sufficient to place the country seventh in the league table of the world's leading oil producers.

Oil therefore exerts, and will continue to exert, an enormous influence on the rate and scope of Nigeria's development for a considerable period—a period when the country is undergoing dramatic changes in terms of greater industrialization and modernization of its agricultural industry which in the longer term will be of even greater importance.

will be only a modest increase in production in the present financial year in line with plans made before the Middle East crisis. He emphasized that it was not his country's intention to take undue advantage of the present disturbed situation in the world petroleum industry.

But within the Nigerian oil industry there are many who consider that production could well reach between three million and four million barrels a day by late next year or early in 1976. This is because of the continued high rate of discovery of new reserves, the nature of Nigeria's oil, which because of its nearly sulphur-free characteristics make it highly sought after, and also because of Nigeria's need to maintain revenues at a high level to diversify its economy.

Modest increase in production

Nigerian oil production rose steadily from nothing in 1957 to 116,000,000 barrels 10 years later and has risen even more dramatically since the end of the civil war in 1970 when production amounted to 395,800,000 barrels. The following year production totalled 538,900,000 barrels and in 1972 665,300,000 barrels.

Early last year the Federal Government indicated that it would seek to lift production by 20 per cent by the end of the year. Production did in fact exceed two million barrels a day for the first time during August and in the final quarter of last year was running at about 2,000,000 barrels daily. In its budget speech at the beginning of April General Gowon stated that there

Unlike other OPEC nations the Nigerian Government has not used its oil weapon against the major consuming areas of the world but while the country has been taking an increasing interest in the activities of the oil companies operating both on and offshore concessions through the Nigerian National Oil Company which was established in April 1971. It has been the NNOC, working to a large extent under the authority of the Federal Ministry of Mines and Power, which has promoted increased Nigerian participation in the oil industry with the ultimate aim of gaining complete control of the industry.

Greater flow of funds

On October 20 last year Nigeria lifted the official posted or tax reference price for 34° gravity oil to \$8.310 per barrel from \$4.287. Then from the beginning of this year the posted price was again lifted to \$14.651 per barrel for the first quarter of the year and subject to currency and freight fluctuations.

As a result of the latest price increase it has been calculated that total Nigerian oil revenues in the current year will amount to between \$7,000m and \$8,000m which, as *Newsweek* noted in March, is about 16 times the sum that the World Bank advances every year to the entire African continent.

This is an enormous sum and has important implications for the Federal Government and the way in

which the substantially increased flow of funds is distributed among the 12 states of the federation.

At the same time Nigeria has been taking an increasing interest in the activities of the oil companies operating both on and offshore concessions through the Nigerian National Oil Company which was established in April 1971. It has been the NNOC, working to a large extent under the authority of the Federal Ministry of Mines and Power, which has promoted increased Nigerian participation in the oil industry with the ultimate aim of gaining complete control of the industry.

There are about half a dozen major producing groups operating in Nigeria led by Shell-BP, which accounts for about two thirds of production, and followed by Gulf, Mobil, Agip/Phillips, Safrap and Texaco. Soon after its formation NNOC took a 33 1/3 per cent interest in the activities of Agip/Phillips and later a 35 per cent stake in Safrap.

In June last year the NNOC negotiated a 35 per cent participation stake in Shell-BP which was backdated to the beginning of April, 1973, while the agreement also provided for NNOC to lift its stake to 51 per cent by 1982. The agreement also meant that a proportion of the Government's crude oil would be sold to Shell-BP as low-cost oil while the state oil company would also give its partner "commercial opportunity"

to buy additional quantities. At about the same time the Government negotiated a production sharing contract with Ashland Oil under which, if oil was discovered in commercial quantities, Ashland would be able to recover costs including royalties and tax payments from a part of production. The agreement also provided that the balance of production up to 50,000 barrels a day would be shared, with

the national oil undertaking taking 65 per cent and Ashland 35 per cent while the NNOC would take 70 per cent of production above the 50,000 barrels a day level.

The Government also negotiated a 51 per cent participation stake in the activities of Tenneco, Deminor/Niger Oil (which in May struck oil offshore), Delta Pan Ocean, Japanese Petroleum (which has made a number of successful

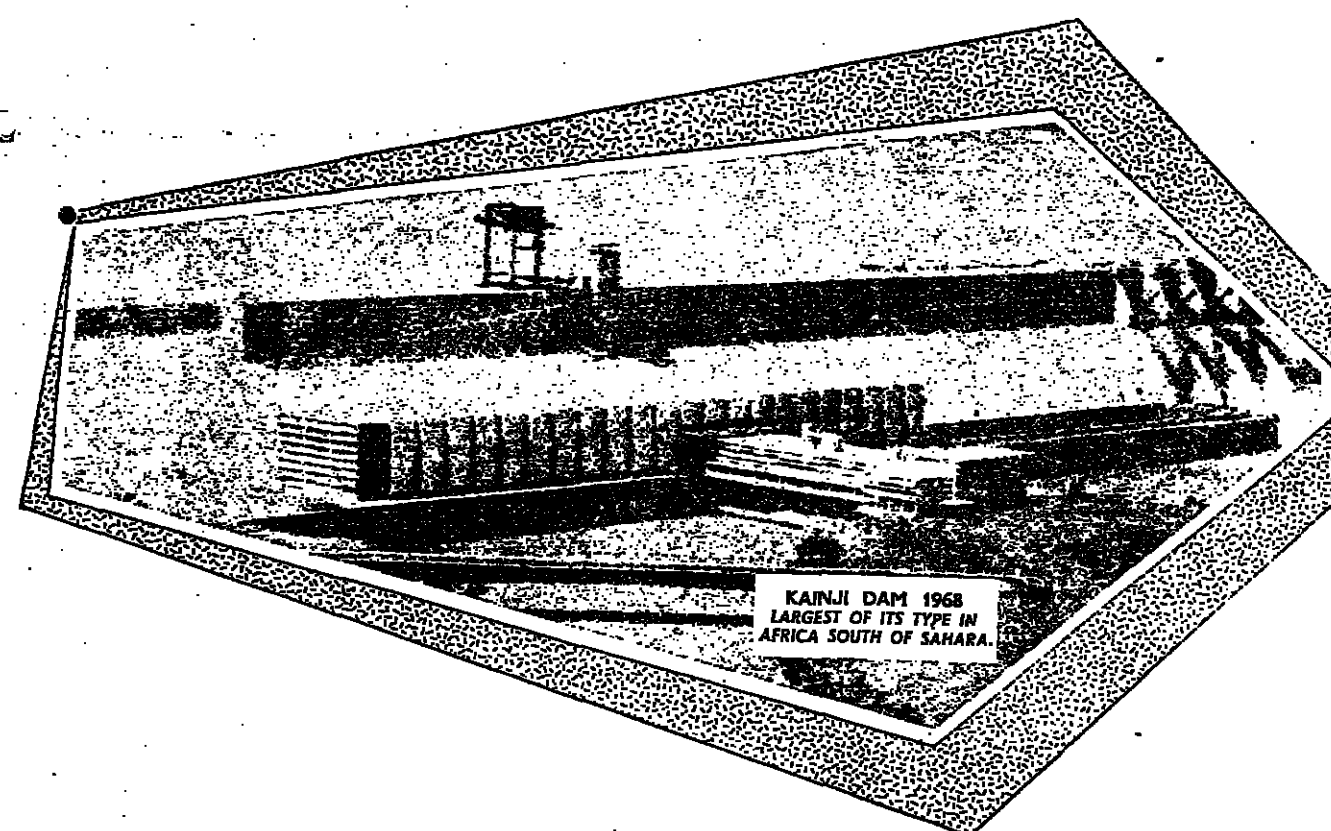
strikes), Occidental, and Henry Stephens (a Nigerian private sector undertaking). Most of those engaged in Nigeria and at the same time NNOC's deal with Shell-BP was expected to be followed by similar deals with Gulf, Mobil and Texaco, but despite protracted negotiations these failed to materialize. But early last month it emerged that the Nigerian Government, following its policy of gaining a greater stake in oil exploration and

55 per cent stake in oil a barrel with the rest of the company operations with oil being marketed directly by the Government. Since most of those engaged in Nigeria and at the same time NNOC's deal with Shell-BP was expected to be followed by similar deals with Gulf, Mobil and Texaco, but despite protracted negotiations these failed to materialize. But early last month it emerged that the Nigerian Government, following its policy of gaining a greater stake in oil exploration and

while it is estimated that the Government will have access to about 86 per cent of overall Nigerian output while it is estimated that the Government will have access to about 330,000 barrels daily for direct marketing on this year.

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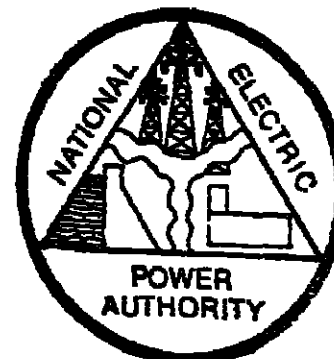
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New refineries will cut imports

Although Nigerian oil production has increased steadily over the past four years and Nigeria now ranks among the leading oil exporting nations of the world, it is faced with a growing shortfall in the supply of domestically produced refined oil products. Nigeria is obliged at present to import about 20 per cent of its refined products requirements, mostly from Europe, to meet growing domestic demand.

Over the 1963-73 period demand for refined products has been growing at an annual rate of about 9 per cent. Nigeria's only refinery, Alesha-Eleme, near Port Harcourt, has a daily maximum throughput of about

60,000 barrels a day and is unable to meet the national requirements. Commissioned in 1965, the Alesha-Eleme refinery is operated by the Nigerian Petroleum Refining Company (60 per cent) and Shell and BP (each with 20 per cent). Plant breakdowns and other difficulties mean that the volume of imports has had to be increased substantially.

In an attempt to reduce the drain on foreign exchange involved in the import of refined products the Government has announced that it is to build two new refineries. The first will be at Warri in the Mid-West State and the second at Kaduna, which will serve the northern region.

Under the original plans Kaduna refinery is geared

the Warri refinery should have been commissioned in March. But it is unlikely to begin operations much before the end of 1977 with an initial throughput of about 40,000 barrels a day rising to about 70,000 barrels a day. The site has been cleared and construction work on the plant, which is likely to be owned solely by the Government, is scheduled to start shortly.

The refinery at Kaduna, about 300 miles north of Lagos, is scheduled to be operational by 1980 and there is speculation that it may involve some foreign shareholding. Capacity there is also likely to be of the order of 70,000 barrels a day. The location of the

not only to the Federal Government's plans for achieving a greater dispersal of heavy industry but also to the possibility of exporting refined products to Nigeria's neighbours, notably Niger and other countries which adjoin the northern borders.

General Gowon referred earlier this year to the construction of export-oriented refineries though it is not clear at this stage where these will be or what capacities are planned. However, if consumption follows the pattern of the past decade it seems likely that when the Warri refinery is operating at its planned full capacity, Nigeria is almost certainly going to be self sufficient in refined products. Depending on the rate at which industrial development takes place in the northern regions, the Kaduna refinery therefore could well export a proportion of its production.

A study carried out at the beginning of this year by the Transport Planning Unit of the Federal Ministry of Transport into the potential for pipeline transport concluded that it would be uneconomic to build a pipeline from Port Harcourt to Kaduna for refined products in advance of a refinery being built in the North.

The study also looked at the possibility of a pipeline to link the groundnut producing areas of the north with either Port Harcourt or Lagos. On the basis of present rates of production of groundnuts and groundnut oil, the construction of a pipeline to serve the southern part of Nigeria and for export was considered uneconomic.

However, the report said that if production returned to levels of before 1963 and the presently available oil processing capacity at 400,000 tons a year was fully used a groundnut oil pipeline might become "economically desirable". It would require a throughput of between 200,000 and 300,000 tons before it was competitive with either road or rail haulage.

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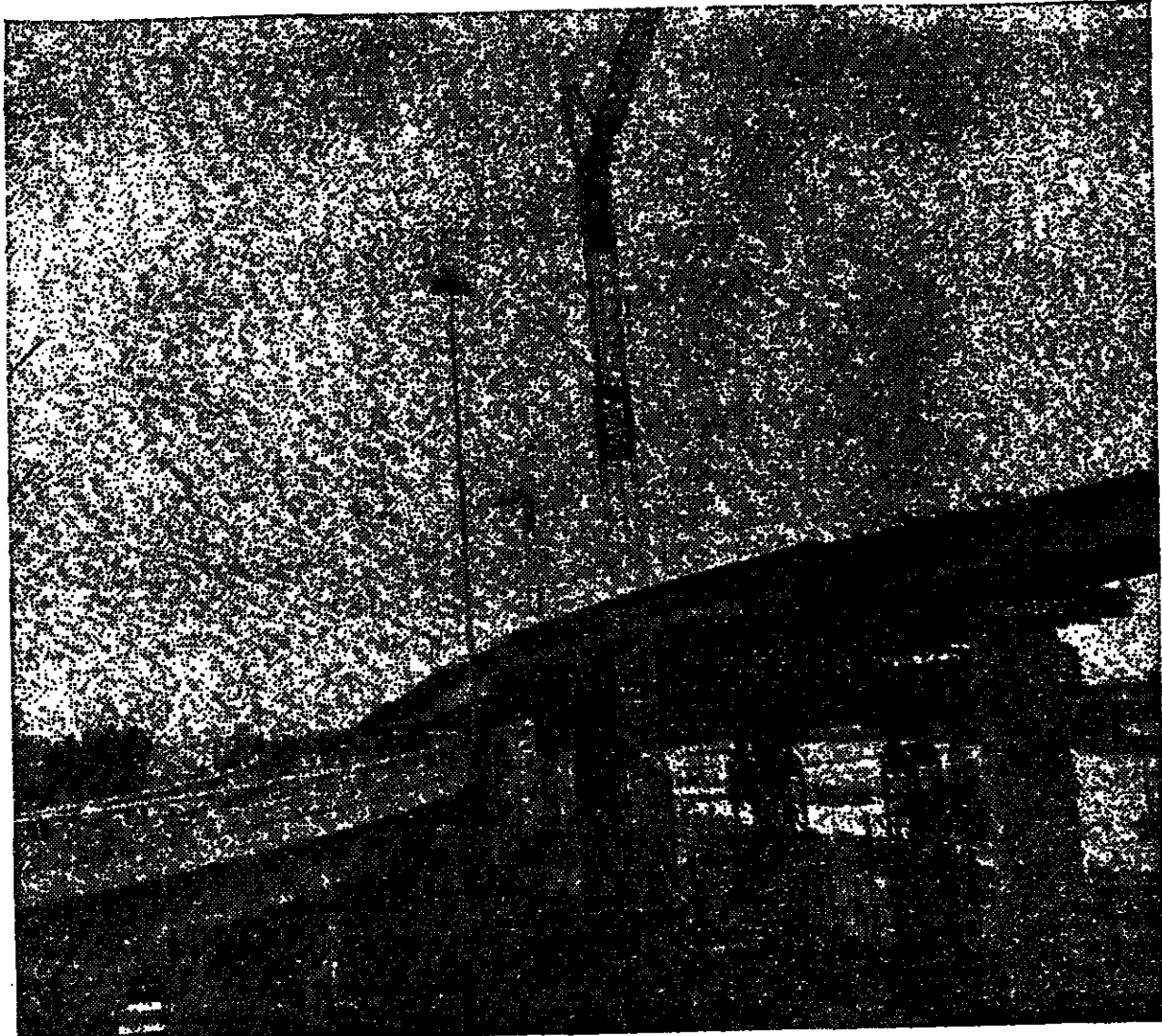
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Nigeria



1. Road development is a priority programme. The Federal and State governments will spend about £166,234 million on road development during the current Plan period. Picture above shows part of an elevated super highway complex under construction.

2. (Below) Yards of textile rolling off a machine. There are many textile mills producing various types of clothing materials all over Nigeria.



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SOUND PROGRESS DEVELOPMENT

NIGERIA'S continued advancement in economic and social activities is buttressed by national stability and a general determination to ensure the essential co-ordination of resources, both human and material.

The main pillars of this concerted effort of national construction were highlighted by the Head of the Federal Military Government, General Yakubu Gowon (the 1973/74 Chairman of the Organisation of African Unity) in his budget statement earlier this year. His theme was the upliftment of the people's quality of life through deliberate measures directed towards minimising the burdens of rising prices.

In announcing anti-inflationary measures, he declared that "Government would utilise the increased revenue earnings from petroleum to substitute for traditional revenues from duties on local industries and, in addition, contain imported inflation within limits. Import and excise duties on goods affected have been reduced."

Increased housing construction is being facilitated by lower costs, both of materials and equipment.

To meet food requirements, food items previously restricted are now permitted entry and transportation problems have been eased substantially by a national price level for petroleum products and cheaper vehicles through reduced costs.

A significant boost for rural advancement is the increase in producer prices payable for cash crops. These measures for groundnuts, cocoa, cotton, coffee, palm oil and kernels, copra, bent-seed, soya-beans are designed to provide incentives for farmers. To assist farmers to deal with problems of capital, the Federal Government has established an Agricultural Bank, which has given out N4.6 million (about £3 million) already.

A deliberate Government policy kept production at just over 2 million barrels per day in 1973/74, as Nigeria did not wish to take undue advantage of the disturbed situation in the world petroleum industry. Efforts will continue to ensure that Government intervenes meaningfully and effectively in the Nigerian petroleum industry. This year, this objective will be facilitated by Government's involvement with petroleum marketing and servicing. The main goal of participation in petroleum exploration and production has been largely achieved by majority shareholding in the ownership of major companies in this field by Government.

An important project for accelerating Nigerian technological input to the national petroleum industry is the establishment of a Petroleum Training Institute at Warri, a main centre of the oil production, where a refinery is being constructed (the second new refinery will be built at Kaduna).

The wastage of gas in the oil fields, where about 2,000 million cubic feet was flared daily last year amounted to over N500 million (about £300 million). It is hoped this year, recent studies of the collection, liquefaction and export of gas as well as its conversion into petrol chemicals will enable the establishment of a plant for the liquefaction of natural gas.

When the dam is built, water released will flow all the year round into the river more than 70 miles downstream. This means permanent water supply for the people and livestock living not only in the vicinity of the reservoir but also for those living along the river bank for a considerable distance downstream.

The project will also make it possible for farmers in the area to harvest two or three crops in a year.

It will create job opportunities for more than 10,000 workers in the flour and rice mills and the sugar and tomato and meat processing factories which will be sited in the project area.

The area will also have electricity from the hydro-electric power from the dam. The benefits of all these to the local community are obvious.

Projects, which will be undertaken by these authorities will mean more than containing droughts (and floods). Their main functions include:

- the exploitation of underground water resources by sinking bore holes
- the construction of dams for irrigation and flood control purposes

(iii) the development of large-scale mechanised farming to increase the production of both food and industrial crops

(iv) the control of soil erosion and desert encroachment through afforestation and other means.

The Chad Basin Development Authority is executing the first phase of the South Chad Irrigation project covering 40,000 acres at a cost of £20 million. This project will be expanded to cover 100,000 acres in the next development plan period.

On January 30, this year, the foundation stone of the Bakolori Dam and Irrigation Project was laid. This is being handled by the Sokoto-Rima Basin Authority, whose immediate task is the execution of the project which will cost N110 million to complete and is the largest single agricultural project of its kind so far approved by government.

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INDUSTRIAL PROGRAMME

By the end of 1975, the two (Fiat and Volkswagen) passenger car assembly plants at Kaduna and Lagos respectively will be in production and should lead to further reductions in the price of vehicles.

Plans are in hand for the assembly of commercial vehicles in Nigeria and the selection of technical partners will be made shortly.

Two other main industries are concerned with the production of phosphate fertilisers at Kaduna and Sokoto (Midwest) and Ilesha (West) this year.

Another project for the production of sugar has been launched in South (North-West) with Tate and Lyle (Nigeria) Limited as technical partner.

Extensive geological surveys of the whole country in the search for iron ore of sufficiently high quality has had to be commissioned; for instance, so that project design and location may be appropriately oriented to locally-produced or imported raw materials as the case may be.

The first results, were not very encouraging, but more recently, there have been some spectacular developments in the course of the Geological Survey Authority's investigations. High grade iron ore deposits have been identified particularly at Nkalpo, Agbaja, Shokolo and Ajokuta in Kwara State.

Also, drilling work on coal deposits in the Lafia area of Benue-Plateau State indicated that coal of high quality exists in that area.

In the light of these developments, the Federal Government has decided that the first national steel complex, based on local materials, should be sited

between Ajokuta and Lokoja in Kwara State. Although implementation of the first project will necessarily take some time, the Federal Government recognises the desirability of starting, as soon as possible, preliminary work on a second plant based on the direct reduction method which would make good use of Nigeria's abundance of natural gas.

IRON AND STEEL COMPLEX

Efforts are continuing for the establishment of the iron and steel complex in association with the Sokoto-Rima Basin Authority, whose immediate task is the execution of the project which will cost N110 million to complete and is the largest single agricultural project of its kind so far approved by government.

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ANTI-DROUGHT MEASURES

As is generally known, Nigeria is dealing with problems caused by the Saharan drought and has, so far, expended over N40 million (about £30 million) to relieve hardships. Work is, however, in hand to provide irrigation facilities and other requisites for long-term solutions to water shortages in the areas affected.

Five river-basin authorities are to be established. They are Niger River, Benue River, Hadejia-Jama'ara River, Ogun River; two were established last year for the Sokoto-Rima and the Chad basins.

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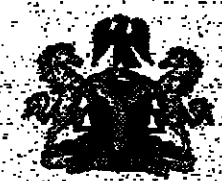
Federal Government of Nigeria

NATIONAL F NIGERIA



Nigeria

Gembe-Yola road, phase 1 to Kari road, Benin road and the Sokoto road (linking Nigeria). Some of the main part of the Inter-African Highway.



BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION (£1 = N665)

the firm intention of the Federal Government to open up the country and facilitate the movement of goods from one part of the country to another in order to enhance inter-state trade and to boost exports. This is based on the policy of regional economic development, which is a pre-condition for the exploitation of the vast agricultural resources by the people for the common good.



EDUCATION

various and nine out of ten of the population are playing a role in the production of the country's manpower.

The Federal Government has set up a Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training to coordinate and manage the technical and vocational education system.

ally to enhance understanding among Nigerians, the Federal Government has set up a "Unity Week" all over the country. This week has one and one girls' school.

education standards being maintained by the Federal Government, the Federal Government has set up a "Unity Week" all over the country. This week has one and one girls' school.

all else, however, is a decision to improve the quality of the country's education system.

For the 1974-75 fiscal year, the Federal Government has authorised a foreign exchange budget involving an outflow of about N2.7 billion and estimated receipts of N3.2 billion. Thus there will be a favourable balance of about N0.5 billion at the end of the year which will further strengthen the external value of the Naira. The performance of our external trade sector in 1973 shows a remarkable improvement over that of 1972 which was also a good year. The level of visible exports which stood at N1434.2 million in 1972 rose to N2,226.6 million in 1973, an increase of over 55 per cent. This was due largely to the increase in the volume and price of petroleum exports which now accounts for 85 per cent of the total value of exports recorded. The N513 million recorded for traditional exports in 1973 represents over 42 per cent improvement on the previous year. Thus, the petroleum exports registered some of the growth lost in 1972 when a decline of 30 per cent was registered.

Just as exports grew in 1973, so also did import bills rise. Imports were valued at N1,294 million in 1973 as against N894.1 million in 1972. The non-oil sector almost wholly accounts for the increase in the value of imports with the highest increase recorded for industrial raw materials, passenger cars, transport equipment, food, durable consumer goods and capital equipment, in that order.

Not only is the increase in the general level of imports consistent with growing exports, but the structure of imports continues to fall in line with the desired direction of the development of the economy. Besides, the

rate of growth of exports (at about 55%) is much less than the rate of growth of imports (at over 25%), so that the increase in the import bills is more than offset by the increase in export earnings. The net effect is a substantial increase in visible trade balance from N41.4 million in 1972 to N392.6 million in 1973.

The invisible or services account, as usual, registered a deficit. In other words, Nigeria pays out more on services such as shipping, airline travel, and investment income to other nations than we receive on these services from abroad. The deficit increased from N498 million in 1971 to N722.7 million in 1973. The oil sector accounts for 70 per cent of this deficit. For instance, out of the N867.3 million deficit recorded in 1973, over N415 million was paid out as investment income to non-resident shareholders of the oil companies. With increasing participation of Nigerians in the sector, such payments will decline in the years to come. It should also be noted that the deficit has been growing in a relatively healthy proportion to the general growth in the economy. In a way, until we develop the shipping capacity, etc., to carry the bulk of our external trade, these deficits on services account are to some extent inevitable in a rapidly developing economy.



EXCHANGE CONTROL RELAXATION MEASURES: PAYMENT FOR IMPORTS

In view of the improved foreign exchange situation, government has decided further to relax restrictions on the trade account. The policy in respect of payment for imports is now abolished and in its place we are returning to normal commercial trading practice. Capital equipment valued at over N100,000 will however continue to be paid for on suppliers' credit terms to be approved by the Central Bank in respect of the private sector and the

Federal Ministry of Finance for the public sector. The new credit guidelines for capital goods will be more liberal and flexible in application.



PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS

The highlight of the decision relating to profit and dividends is that we are now returning to the pre-war practice of authorising retention of dividends as they are declared provided that the proper taxes have been paid on them. All outstanding arrears will therefore be cleared during this financial year. With regard to management and technical fees, it is decided that a fixed fee only should be payable in the first five years of the establishment of a new company and thereafter a percentage of gross profit not exceeding 5%. Turnover or net sales may be considered as a yardstick only in exceptional cases. Applications for technical fees and royalty payments will be related to the state of technology of the industry concerned as well as the existence or otherwise of a centrally directed research and development effort in the industry. Thus, each application will continue to be treated on its own merit within these broad guidelines.

MONETARY AND BANKING POLICY

The sectoral credit guidelines for 1973-74 will be maintained in 1974-75, that is, the proportion of each bank's total credit to the various sectors of the economy should be as follows:

Production	45%
General Commerce	32%
Services	11%
Others	12%

The stipulated percentage shares for the productive sectors will be treated as minima while the ratios allocated to general com-

merce and others will be considered as maxima. The minimum proportion of each bank's loans and advances to be granted to Nigerians in each month will be retained at 40 per cent. The requirement regarding the composition of specified liquid assets will be maintained as in 1973-74. The list of short-term assets will be expanded to include any money-market instruments that may be issued by the Central Bank.



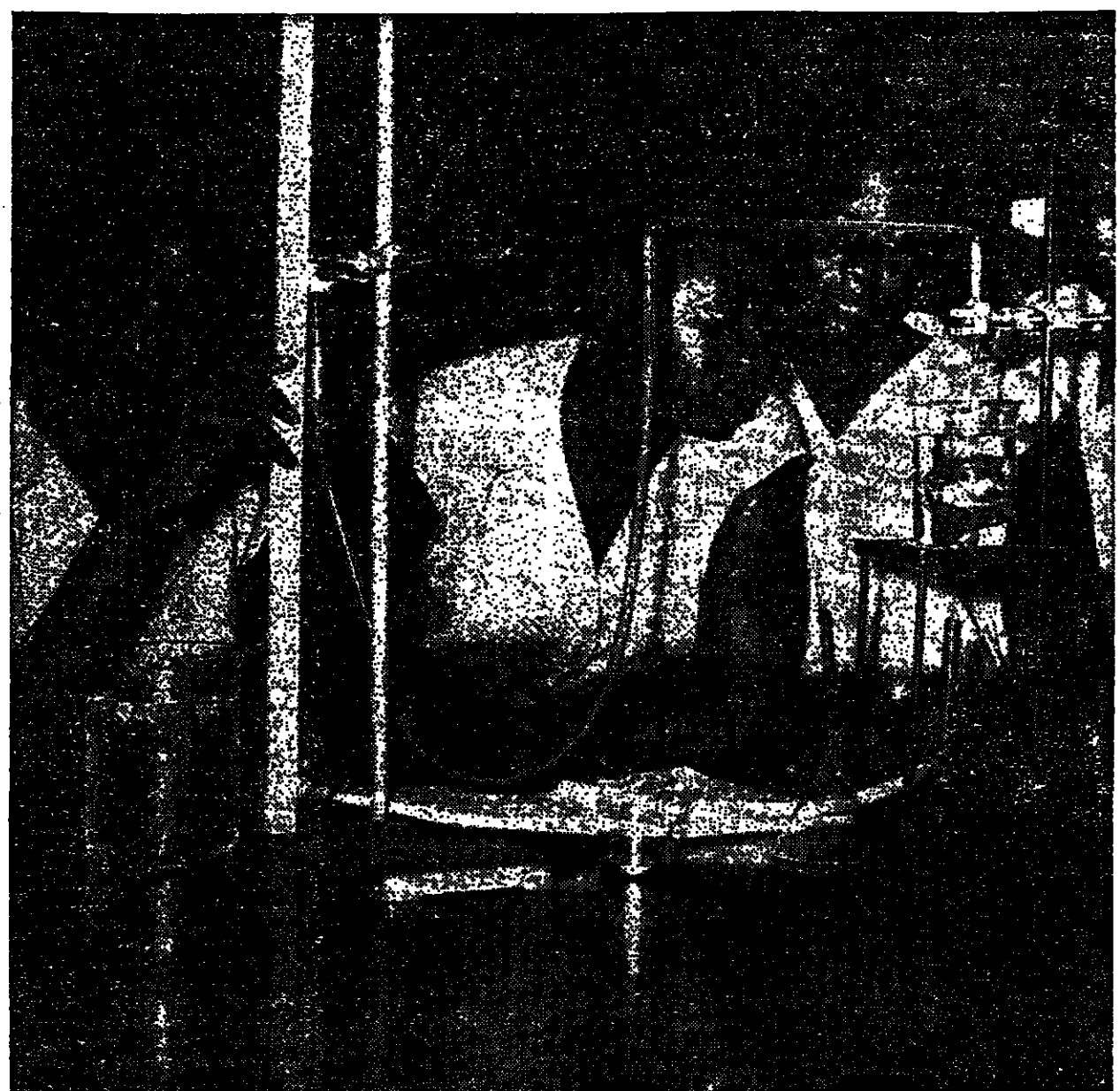
FINANCIAL DETAILS OF THE BUDGET

This year, the Federal Government expects to collect N2,122 million out of which N531 million represents Statutory Appropriation to the State Governments. An additional N35 million is to be paid as Non-Statutory Appropriation to the States as compensation for revenue loss consequent on the abolition of export duties and sales tax on Marketing Board produce and rubber. Federally retained revenue is thus estimated at N2,496 million. Petroleum now provides over 80 per cent of federally retained revenue.

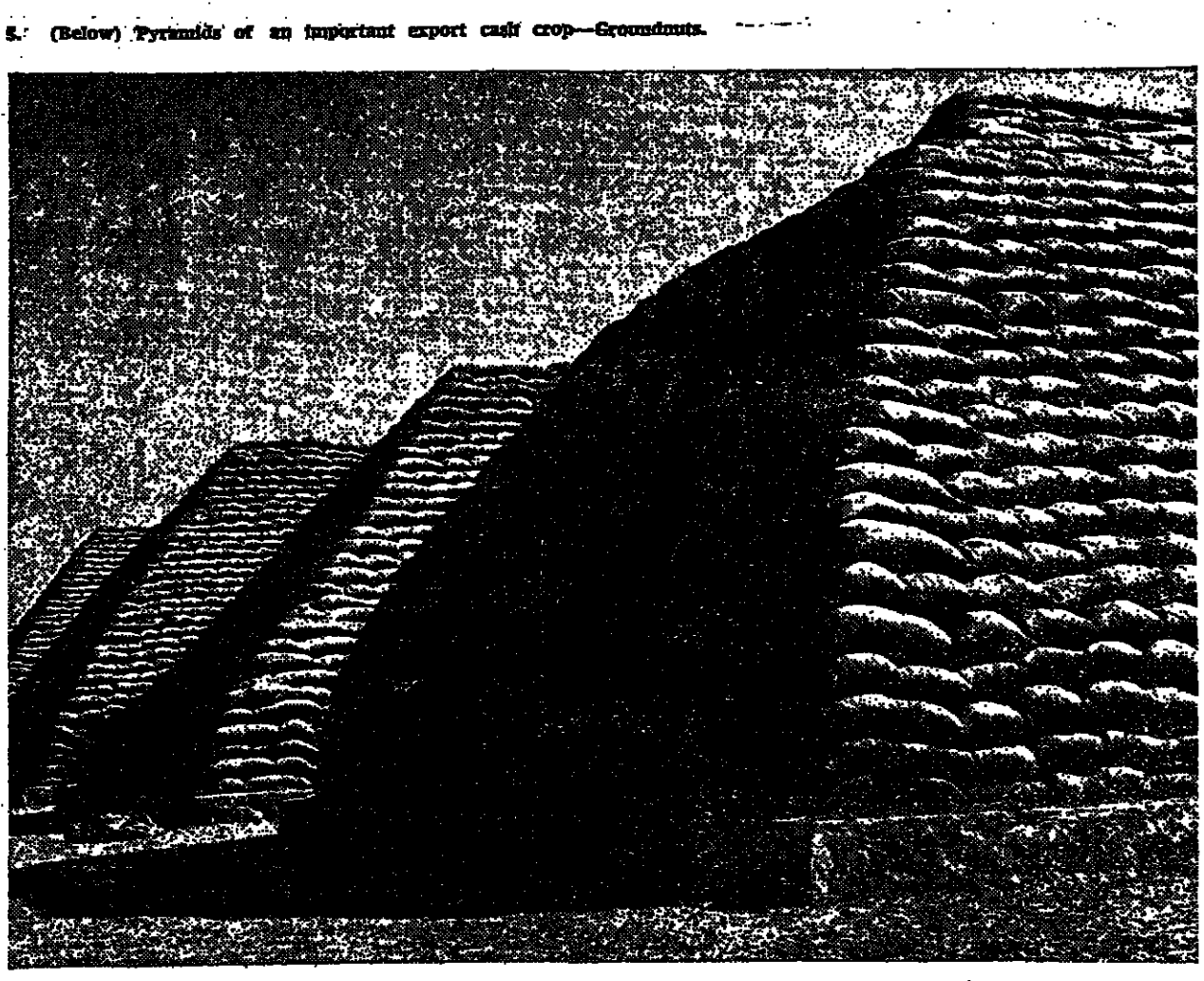
The estimated Federal Government recurrent expenditure for 1974-75 is about N955 million which leaves a recurrent budget surplus of N1,541 million for transfer to the Development Fund for financing Federal Capital expenditure. Thus over 65 per cent of federal current revenue will be utilised for capital development.

TODAY, Nigeria, utilising the prosperity and political stability of recent years, has moved forward courageously to find fresh avenues to develop all aspects of its national resources. In doing so, it has demonstrated its capacity for self-reliance. When the next four-year national development plan is launched in 1975, Nigeria will further present a dynamic nation devoted to the welfare and happiness of all its people.

6. (Below) The Head of State, H.E. General Yakubu Gowon, laying the foundation stone of the N150 million Sakolere Dam and Irrigation project of the Sokoto-Rima Basin Authority.



4. With six universities and nine colleges of technology in the country, the Federal Government has made substantial investments in the field of post primary education. In addition to Federal Government Colleges which have been opened in the states (one boys' and one girls' in each state) six non-degree granting institutions of higher education will be opened later this year. Of these, three will be advanced teachers' colleges and the other three will be Federal schools of arts and science to undertake basic studies. Picture above is of Young Secondary School girls working in a science laboratory.



5. (Below) Pyramids of an important export cash crop—Groundnuts.

BUSINESS INDIGENISATION SCHEME MAKES GOOD PROGRESS

INDIGENISATION DECREE

During the first two years, the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Board has worked strenuously to collate information, classify industries and to identify the businesses affected by the Decree. It has also taken appropriate measures to educate the general public on various aspects and implications of the indigenisation Decree. In addition, seminars and training programmes have been organised by the Universities, and under the auspices of the Association of the Nigerian Chambers of Commerce, Industries and Mines as a means of improving and developing managerial skills among Nigerian businessmen. All these steps are very welcome and augur well for the eventual success of the Scheme.

Considerable progress has been made in the take-over of businesses affected by the Decree, and contrary to the fears expressed by some foreign concerns, funds have not been lacking for the purchase of shares in businesses in Schedule II of the Decree. If anything, the issues of shares have been oversubscribed many times. Thus far, therefore, progress on the scheme has been satisfactory. However, it should be clearly understood by all that the intention of the Federal Military Government in promulgating the Decree is first and foremost to promote greater and more effective indigenous

participation in the economic life of the nation. It has never been, and it cannot be, the intention of the Federal Military Government merely to create avenues for a few individuals to grow rich excessively and easily on account of the indigenisation Decree, while the country's economic well-being suffers or shows signs in that direction.

I wish to stress also that the successful implementation of the indigenisation programme demands a lot of sacrifice from, and poses a big challenge to, all Nigerians who now have a duty to ensure the maintenance of high standards of integrity, business acumen, public relations and general efficiency. To this end, Nigerian businessmen should avail themselves of managerial training facilities wherever available. In this connection, it may be mentioned that a programme of Industrial Training has been launched by the Industrial Training Fund, and regular Courses will be conducted under the auspices of the Centre for Management Education.

HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL YAKUBU GOWON, Head of the Federal Military Government and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, and Current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity.

Foreigners' concern over investment security

by Effiong Essien
economics editor.
Daily Times, Lagos

A decade ago, foreign businessmen were encouraged to come and invest in Nigeria. They were offered several types of incentives—assistance in securing land in order to build their factories, freedom to repatriate profits and dividends, the promise that their investments would not be confiscated, and, above all, tax holidays, extensive capital and depreciation allowances as well as tariff concessions.

With these incentives, in addition to Nigeria's large and growing internal market, private foreign investors trooped into the country. They put money into mining and manufacturing, construction, trading and service industries. By 1968, cumulative private foreign investment had reached N1,021.4m (about £655m) from N643.6m in 1964. Investment in the manufacturing sector climbed up to N204m from N117.8m in 1964. At that date Britain's

share of total investment was 51.1 per cent—slightly higher in the manufacturing sector.

Although the net addition to total foreign investment declined from year to year—from N126m in 1964 to N103.4m in 1968—mainly as a result of the unstable political climate between 1967 and 1970, Britain succeeded in increasing its investment from N27.2m in 1964 to N40.8m in 1968. After the civil war in 1970, when political uncertainty was cleared, foreign firms were once again confident and so they reinvested their unremitted profits and borrowed money from abroad to finance new investments and to expand existing industries.

However, one question is constantly being asked: do private foreign investors still have the confidence they had in Nigeria a decade ago, when incentives were generously offered and foreign investors treated as the prime movers of the economy? At the moment, these incentives are still operating, though not as liberally as

before, as the number of firms which qualify for some of them has been declining.

But what bothers the foreign investors, those already in Nigeria and those planning to come in, is whether Nigeria will continue to honour its pledge not to nationalize foreign investment. After what has happened in some other developing countries, their fears are justified. If indeed it is true that Nigeria is not to nationalize foreign businesses, what will be the final phase of the country's indigenization scheme?

This has been the problem confronting most foreign investors in Nigeria. It is believed that in less than five years, the 40 per cent equity capital acquired by Nigerians in foreign enterprises under schedule II will be raised to 100 per cent. This would be a mild form of nationalization, although the purchase of shares by Nigerians would mean that foreigners were returned the capital they invested without the delay often experienced in a non-negotiated nationalization.

The fact that private foreign investors worry about these problems demonstrates clearly that whatever the

nature of fiscal and industrial incentives offered, nothing can substitute for security of investment and the prospect of a high rate of return on the investment. There can be no denying the fact that Nigeria continues to promise attractive returns. Thus it is the security of investment that has become the most important consideration.

Because the investment climate is uncertain, private foreign investors welcome measures that would increase their profits in the early years so that they can take back enough money before nationalization to justify their risk. Therefore some industrial incentives are still necessary.

Under the existing industrial incentive scheme in Nigeria, a manufacturer qualifying under the approved user scheme is allowed to import raw materials specified in the customs tariff either duty-free or at a concessional rate of duty. And under the Income Tax Act, companies may be allowed to write-down their capital assets in the early years of operation, so as to enable them to amortize their capital assets during the formative years.

The Act allows a company to depreciate the value of its machinery by as much as 40 per cent in its first taxable year. This is in addition to the normal annual write-down of between 5 and 10 per cent allowed. Thus in its first taxable year, the company is allowed to deduct from its profits up to 50 per cent of the value of machinery. Where the company's taxable income does not absorb the full capital allowance, the unabsorbed portion can be carried forward indefinitely against future taxable profits.

In addition, some industries are declared "pioneer" and allowed to enjoy some tax privileges as new companies. The principal criterion for deciding whether a company should be a pioneer or not is the extent to which it will use local raw materials for manufacturing. The underlying reason is that Nigeria has "boundless resources" that could be developed without any need to import raw materials.

Moreover, because of the need to encourage the development of certain industries, incentives nowadays apply only to carefully selected industries which meet the requirements of national priorities. These include iron, steel and fertilizers, but exclude cosmetics, biscuits, and textile industries.

tries producing only cotton final-piece goods and prints. Because of the need to encourage and protect Nigerian participation in certain areas of the economy, 20 enterprises are now exclusively reserved for Nigerians. Under schedule II, 35 enterprises are for joint participation between Nigerians and foreigners, in which case the minimum interest to be owned by Nigerians is 40 per cent. No approval will be given for the establishment of new businesses in Nigeria unless they comply with requirements for Nigerian participation.

Foreign investors seem to accept this new development as an incentive against any possibility of nationalization. Indeed some British companies in Nigeria had already taken steps to hand over some of their activities to Nigerians before the decree was promulgated. Produce-buying, for example, was handed over to Nigerians by UAC (Nigeria) in the early days of independence.

Successful examples of joint ventures initiated by UAC before the indigenization decree include the largest bed-producing company in the country—Vono (Nigeria)—a subsidiary of UAC, in which the Governments of Western State and Lagos State have shares. There is also a plastics company started by UAC, in which Western State has some shares. Another example is the General Cotton Mills at Onitsha in which the Eastern State Government has participation.

In fact, UAC had been noted for its policy of joint participation either with the Government, Nigerian private citizens, or other foreign interests. The company's approach towards the sale of shares in order to satisfy the requirement has been to invite the various state governments to take substantial shares before the remainder are sold to the public. It is believed that the company seeks to establish itself firmly in each of the states and to prevent hostility from any of the state governments.

Some other companies have also adopted this policy. On the whole, it is not because they do not like to operate alone as they did, but because they are responding rapidly to the wind of change in the country—a change which means the marrying of indigenous technology for the development of the country as well as safe returns to foreign investors.

Plans to enlarge the airstrip at Enugu have involved extending the runway.

How to win friends with 'indigenization'

by Alan Hutchison

One of the major economic problems facing every African government, how to increase local participation in foreign-owned business without scaring off potential investors, has been solved in Nigeria by a neat piece of legislation known as the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Decree—commonly shortened to "Nigerianization", or even more clumsily to "indigenization".

The common sense and flexibility with which the Federal Government has carried out the decree has won praise not only from foreign-owned Nigerians, but even more surprisingly from many of the "victims" too.

Fundamentally the decree, promulgated in February, 1972, set out to reserve 22 specified business areas entirely for Nigerians by April 1 of this year (Schedule 1) and to increase Nigerian participation in a further 33 businesses, under certain conditions, to at least 40 per cent (Schedule 2). Schedule 1 enterprises are generally small, non-complex businesses—typical examples would be bakeries, taxi services and cinema management, but also including larger enterprises like newspaper publishing—which the Government felt could or should be adequately handled by citizens.

Schedule 2 businesses included light and medium manufacturing industries, certain professional activities such as estate agencies, technical distribution agencies, large-scale fishing and shipping. These were to be barred to foreigners if their paid-up share capital did not exceed N400,000 or their turnover did not exceed N1m, whichever was considered more appropriate; otherwise they had to ensure at least 40 per cent Nigerian participation in their equity by what came to be known as "D-day". General Gowon was Sandhurst-trained, it should be remembered.

The word palaver is supposed to have originated in Nigeria, and in the past two years there has been a great deal of it—palaver over definitions, over deadlines, over finance, all of it conducted with that vigour and good humour for which Nigerians are renowned.

The original decree envisaged that in such a subtle exercise a great deal of flexibility would be needed. It is, after all, virtually the first time in an African takeover of this size that the notion of "fair play" (the Nigerians like their British phrases) has been mentioned.

And there has been flexibility. Schedule 1 enterprises were "promoted" into Schedule 2, time limits were extended and compromises worked out. Among 13 firms given a last-minute extension to comply with the decree were some well-known British names—Knight, Frank & Rutley, Evans, Ryobers, publishers, in Uganda. The price at which shares were to be sold was determined by the Capital Development Commission, a body biased by international standards towards the buyers of shares, the status of a "Nigerian Association".

The real "market" has taken place in the "takeover" of Schedule 1 businesses, with individual Nigerians generally dealing sole criteria it used in selection.

directly with the foreign owner. Often, as with the case of advertising agencies, there was little but expert knowledge or assumed good will to buy; and in some cases where there were tangible assets for sale Nigerians were advised to start scratch rather than buy someone else's second-hand equipment.

The Government was anxious in these categories to ensure that Nigerians really did buy the business, and not merely agree to become nominal owner (a "front") under a deal whereby the former owner, nominally kept full control of the business. To this end, promotion committees were established in all 12 states to ensure that the decree's provisions were complied with.

A more complicated form of haggling took place over the prices to be paid for Nigerian participation in Schedule 2 enterprises. Where a deal was concluded and what price was agreed and by what method it was arrived at. But the Government made it clear that it would prefer to see the equity of affected companies sold through the Lagos Stock Exchange, which with Nairobi is the only effective share market in Black Africa. It felt this would ensure a fairer distribution of business prosperity among a greater number of people.

That, after all, was the aim of the decree—as General Gowon remarked in his budget speech: "It should clearly be understood by all that the intention of the federal military government is first and foremost to promote greater and more effective indigenous participation in the economic life of the nation. It has never been, and it cannot be, the intention of the Government merely to create avenues for a few individuals to grow rich excessively and easily on account of the indigenization (measures)."

The public sale of shares has played a large part in meeting these objectives, for inevitably applications for small numbers of shares were granted in full, while greedy applications were scaled down drastically—in one case from 350,000 to 620. It is unlikely that in the short-term large individual holdings will be built up, for the average investor regards his share purchases as a "long-term" hold, as well as being the attractive yields available.

He is not to be tempted, however, by higher prices, a fact which the stock exchange authorities recognize by their insistence on a regulated bull market. The only criticism one might make is that the purchase is a relatively advanced concept, likely to appeal mainly to town-dwellers and the educated; there is as yet no evidence of farmers exchanging their currency notes under their mattresses for share certificates.

The sellers of Schedule 2 businesses have been less happy with the arrangements, but as a British businessman told me: "We really can't complain. Who minds a bit of haggling over price when the alternative could have been outright nationalization?" This was a development company in which the shares were to be sold to the Capital Development Commission (CIC), a body biased by international standards towards the buyers of shares, the status of a "Nigerian Association".

The real "market" has taken place in the "takeover" of Schedule 1 businesses, with individual Nigerians generally dealing sole criteria it used in selection.

ling on a share price were assets and profitability. But there were, I think, two additional factors: the first reason that it is expensive to obtain expatriate staff via. Most major companies, insurance, big conglomerates, find Nigerians capably and highly specialized. A position of expatriate staff is likely to diminish.

Second—again a personal hunch—the CIC must have looked at the considerable profits made in Nigeria by the foreign firms over the past two decades or longer, often on money borrowed locally, and decided that a final bonus in the form of an over-generous, ultimately reimbursable, share price was more than it could bring itself to give.

What will be the practical effects of indigenization? As far as Schedule 2 companies are concerned, the answer is little. Possibly management will take notice of the point made in the *Guidelines for the Third National Development Plan*—that "the indigenization Decree seems to have extended to ownership of enterprises without attention to control. . . . The mission factor here is a requirement that in all cases where the pattern of ownership of enterprise is changed by reason of the decree, the board of directors should reflect the pattern of ownership such that at least a third of the members of the new board of directors is Nigerian."

For a long time, sign companies have been implementing training programmes, if for a reason than the practical that it is expensive to obtain expatriate staff via. Most major companies, insurance, big conglomerates, find Nigerians capably and highly specialized. A position of expatriate staff is likely to diminish.

As far as the small businesses are concerned, new class of Nigerianpreneurs does not still are, seminars, books, papers and programmes on management and among the larger firms to run courses to assist in the implementation of indigenization are the chambers of commerce, the Industrial Fund, the Industrial Development Bank, the Bank for Commerce and Industry, as well as the con banks, universities, smaller state institutions.

Many people familiar the business initiative drive of Nigerian women, may find the promoting their enterprise by decree somewhat flimsy; there is, though, the corollary of traditional accumulation with modern practices will dynamize the economy of a prosperous country.

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A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a library interior. On the left, a tall wooden bookshelf is filled with books. In the center, a person is standing near a counter or desk. To the right, another person is visible near a large window or glass door. The image is grainy and has a high level of contrast.

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Lagos-Apapa: pilferage rife and facilities overstretched

by Peter Hill

For well over a century Lagos has been the dominant Nigerian port and the steady expansion of the facilities at neighbouring Apapa has confirmed that position. In the nineteenth century it was the river systems of the Niger and the Benue that provided the main gateways to the hinterland of Nigeria, but the development of the railway system early this century changed the position of Lagos-Apapa, while road development advanced the port's position still further.

The Civil War accelerated the growth in traffic through the port, and since the ending of the war the increasing prosperity of Nigeria and the pace of economic development have combined to elevate Lagos-Apapa to a seemingly unassailable position as the country's premier port complex.

Such is the volume of traffic handled by the facilities at Apapa that lorries struggling to enter and leave the port create huge traffic jams. The effect of this is to reduce the efficiency of the port and its facilities, and as one prominent user summarized the situation, "basically cargo does not move fast enough in relation to the capacity of the port."

Nevertheless, during 1972-73 (the last full year for which figures are available) the Apapa wharf and the three berths at the Lagos customs quay handled about 75 per cent of Nigeria's import and export traffic. It is estimated that last year's total probably rose to about 80 per cent. Within the Lagos port complex during 1972-73 Apapa handled some 99 per cent of export and 90 per cent of import traffic.

During that year both import and export traffic fell sharply with the downward movement in export trade stemming from increased demand from Nigerian industry for traditional export commodities. The effects of poor harvest conditions and fluctuations in overseas markets for principal Nigerian exports.

Over the past three years total exports have slipped down steadily from 1,100,000 tons in 1970-71 to 800,333

tons in 1971-72, and to 722,684 tons in 1972-73. The fall in the volume of imports during the year was attributed to government restrictions in foreign exchange transactions, increased use of local materials by domestic industry and industrial problems in some of the world's major ports which reduced the number of ships calling at Lagos, while there was also some movement of ships towards other Nigerian ports. Total imports amounted to just under 2,200,000 tons compared with 2,340,000 tons the previous year, and 2,130,000 tons in 1970-71.

There has been a pronounced decline in the volume of principal export commodities through the port over the five years since 1969-69 with the sharpest drop being recorded in the volume of groundnut exports, that have fallen from slightly more than 700,000 tons in 1969-69 to about 150,000 tons in 1972-73. Exports of groundnut cake and palm kernel have also shown a decline though less marked.

During 1972-73 a total of 1,649 ships called at the port complex, with ships from the enlarged EEC being the most numerous. The turnaround time of ships varied between 3.3 and 5.5 days, according to the Lagos Port Operations Committee. The committee also claimed that after the severe congestion in the aftermath of the Civil War the year saw a further reduction in the number of ships waiting for berths to 2,013 while the number of days vacant when berths were vacant rose for the third successive year to 1,498.

Meanwhile the pattern of cargo movement in terms of import deliveries and export receipts in recent years has shown a huge emphasis in favour of road as against rail transport. This is stretching the handling facilities at the port to breaking point and creating serious congestion problems.

The number of mainline railway wagons engaged in moving goods inwards to the port complex has fallen from 18,000 in 1970-71 to 12,000 in 1972-73 with a similar trend

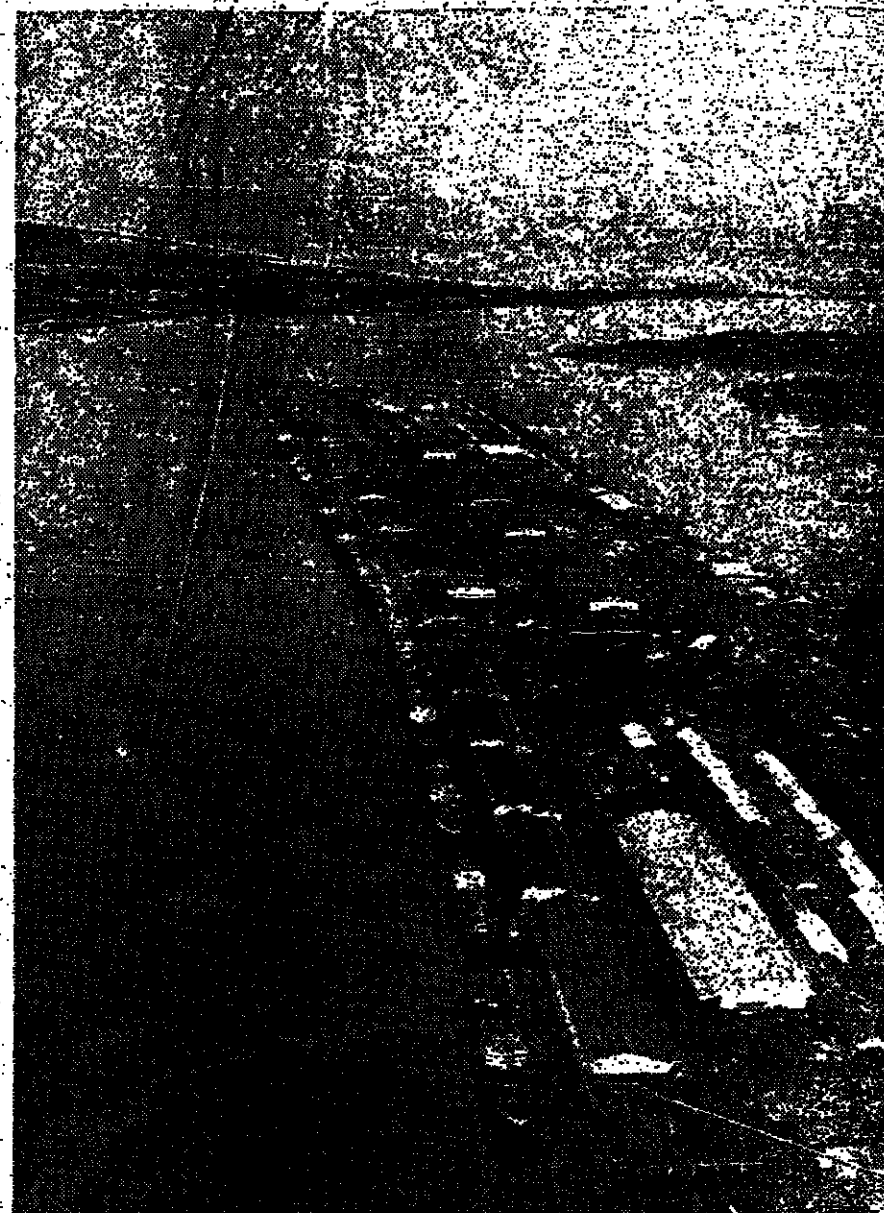
in outward movements. Road transport has increased sharply so that in 1972-73 50 per cent of all road and rail deliveries to Apapa were handled by road. This was 2 per cent more than the previous year, while out of road and rail export receipts at Apapa, some 81 per cent was accounted for by road compared with 68 per cent two years earlier.

Port facilities in the Lagos complex consist of three wharves at the customs quay on Lagos Island opposite Apapa which are old, cramped and, being adjacent to the Marina district, are subject to dense traffic congestion. The view of independent consultants is that the quay should not be considered in any future development plan for the port because of these constraints.

Across the water at Apapa, the wharf extends over 8,000ft with 14 berths—one of them handling principally containers—a growing feature of trade at the port—and backed up by supporting warehouses and transit sheds. Most of the cranes are more than 40 years old and, despite the efforts of the Nigerian Ports Authority to improve the level of equipment efficiency, it is not uncommon, according to a reliable source, for up to 50 per cent to be out of action.

For the future, expansion of the Lagos port complex is envisaged. Under the new extended and improved port plan which ends next year, a total of N54m is to be spent on extensions. This will involve the construction of a container terminal and three conventional berths, dredging, reclamation and the purchase of cargo handling equipment. Out of the total cost of the project, the World Bank is to supply a loan of N36m. Construction of the new berths is scheduled to start this year while the container terminal is expected to be completed by August, 1976, and the three other berths at yearly intervals thereafter.

More immediately, however, the port is suffering from fundamental problems in relation to the dock, pilferage, even of containers, is



Apapa, the port of Lagos, is to be expanded by the construction of a container terminal and three new conventional berths. New cargo handling equipment is also to be introduced.

because the authorities' social and economic interest in this sector would create more problems than it solved. It is not uncommon for port's history of large-scale pilferage and congestion to be a major factor in the decision to build a new port. The Lagos port is no exception. The number of ships waiting for berths at the Lagos port has risen steadily from slightly fewer than 2,000 in 1970-71 to 2,013 in 1972-73.

The Port Operations Committee attributed the increase to poor and illegible identification marks on consignments handled at the port. It also alleges that the rise has been influenced by the decreasing efficiency of small and inexperienced firms of shipping and forwarding agents and attempts by others to avoid rent and other port charges. It is worth noting that in each of the last three years the Government did not press for the complete exclusion of foreign concerns in clearing and forwarding as originally intended. Instead they will be able to continue with Nigerian interests owing up to 40 per cent.

It is clear that the Government felt that in the count-

effective and efficient rationalization of through the port cannot encourage unless improvements are made to present system. The ship companies are sh increased interest in rationalization with number of inward cargo rising from 3,227 three ago to 8,017, representing tonnage of more than 100,000 tons in 1972-73.

The West African has yet to be fully containerized but Nigeria is going to be an important influence on the pattern of development. "Combo" ships able to 410, 20ft containers scheduled to be operational regular service into Apapa by the end of year and shipping of emphasizes that the con business is growing well.

But there is little doubt that the container revolution of the next decade, but less abundant, notably introduction of the new container berth and the improvement of the terminal.

Port Harcourt: victim of war

British industry was still grappling with the problems of the three-day week and growing shortages of fuel when the Elder Dempster Agencies representative at Port Harcourt received a message asking him to organize a visit to the coal mines at Enugu, which reached him through the company's Lagos office, had been dispatched by the Ocean Transport and Trading subsidiary, Cory Solid Fuel International. His task was to assess the cost, quality, quantity and methods of transport and shipping of Nigerian coal, the idea being that, subject to the outcome of the assessment, coal could be shipped to Britain to relieve in part the coal shortage which was at that time a worsening situation.

In the event the export of coal did not take place (one difficulty is the lack of adequate equipment at Port Harcourt) but it is a possibility for an expansion in the future of the port's trade, particularly in view of the promised programme to develop the port's coal output and stimulate new markets for coal and to develop exports to West African countries which already take small quantities of the industry's output.

The largest coalfields lie in the area round Enugu and there are estimated reserves of some 40 million tons in the Enugu escarpment alone. From 1959, when a peak level of more than 80,000 tons a month was reached, production has dropped back sharply, with demand affected by the policy of the railways to run on diesel traction and also the fact that during the civil war the coalfields of the eastern region were cut off. There are other reserves in Benue State and Kwara State.

The industry has been slow to recover from the ravages of the civil war and output last year at 300,000 tons was only just over one-third of production achieved 10 years earlier. But if the expected development and expansion of the use of coal take place, Port Harcourt will inevitably be an important export terminal. During the financial year 1972-73 the port shipped out some 21,000 tons.

Difficulties, however, are being experienced, particularly a shortage of suitable railway rolling stock, which earlier this year meant that substantial quantities of coal could not be moved from the pitheads at Enugu.

The Government has attached great importance to developing the port's coal business and this was underlined by the Commissioner for Mines and Power, Alhaji Shehema Ali Monguno, when he paid a visit last year to inspect facilities after the signing of agreements to supply Nigerian coal to countries with coal. The Government, he said, was optimistic of finding more overseas markets for Nigerian coal.

The coal handling facility, which was completed in 1958, has been maintained after damage sustained during the war, and if coal were developed as a major export commodity would probably require further im-

provements. Situated on the river Bonny, Port Harcourt was developed as an inland harbour in 1911 and quickly established a superiority over the port of Bonny (although Bonny has subsequently regained its former importance through the development as an oil export terminal). By custom the facilities at Port Harcourt, consisting of 3,500 ft of quays incorporating six berths and supporting transit sheds and warehouses, served the old Eastern Region of Nigeria. Some 45 nautical miles from the sea, Port Harcourt is also a southern railhead for the eastern arm of the railway system.

The civil war hit the activities of the port severely and it has still fully to recover the trade which it lost during the war, although there are indications that this is now beginning to happen. According to some estimates trade through the port is probably at about half its prewar levels, reflecting the hold which Lagos-Apapa developed during the war with a considerable number of merchants establishing warehouses in the Lagos area from which imports could be distributed onwards by road.

In the past the main exports through Port Harcourt have been palm kernels, cotton seed, palm oil in drums and groundnut cake. However, with agricultural crops being badly hit by the adverse conditions over the past three years and since increasing quantities being processed and consumed within Nigeria, trade through the port has been affected.

Towards the end of last year the former port manager, Captain F. O. Ego, was prompted to describe the level of exports, then standing at a rate of about 17,000 tons a month, as "not so encouraging".

Since then the situation appears to have improved. His successor, Mr. F. B. Agoro, told me that during March this year the port handled a total tonnage (both import and export) of 98,000 tons, which was the highest monthly total since the port's reactivation after the war, and it was expected that April would realise 100,000 tons of traffic.

Occupancy of berths had improved to a point where often ships were having to wait for berths and with upwards of 2,000 workers employed daily at the port, turnaround times were improving and attracting more shipping lines. The port has no bulk handling facilities, but Mr. Agoro claimed that in recent months contractors had been able to turn round a ship carrying 6,000 tons of cement in five and a half days and a ship carrying 4,800 tons of wheat in four days.

The reactivation of the port started in April, 1970, and was completed in January, 1971, he said. "Between 1970 and now there has been a steady increase in trade and in the past six months (to the end of April) the growth has been phenomenal."

73 Port Harcourt handled 70,833 tons of exports and 165,448 tons of imports, with about 1,800,000 tons of refined oil products being handled at the Okrika oil jetty. Principal export commodities were palm kernel oil, which accounted for 27 per cent of total exports, followed by cotton seed, which totalled 13,000 tons; coal, 21,000 tons; palm kernel cake, which totalled 8,000 tons; and benniseed, which reached a level of 4,000 tons.

During the year the Government to study and report on the future investment in Nigeria's ports calculated in 1970 that total import and export traffic through the principal ports was likely to rise from 1965 to 6,400,000 long tons in 1980 and to 9,700,000 long tons in 1990 in terms of non-oil trade. These estimates have undoubtedly been altered by the impact of the drought on agricultural exports but they provide an indication of the expected trend.

The emphasis of the consultants' report was that in order to prepare for the expected developments and sharp changes in international shipping methods and cargo handling processes Nigeria should invest in high-capacity handling facilities. They recommended that Port Harcourt should have a container terminal and supporting equipment at the south end of the existing facilities not later than 1980 and a dry bulk handling berth.

No firm action on these lines has yet been taken and the present view among Nigerian Port Authority officials appears to be that two general cargo berths, located upstream from the present facilities, will be required more urgently.

At present the port can handle seven ocean-going ships of up to 27ft draught, while there are also the coal berth and a bitumen loading pier upstream. The last large investment apart from the money spent on rehabilitation after the civil war, was made in the mid-1960s and Mr. Agoro made it clear that if trade continues to increase on the pattern of the past few months an early decision will be required on additional general cargo berths.

There are, however, problems of manning. Recently the Railway and Ports Transport Union alleged that the Nigerian Ports Authority was discriminating in the allocation of promotions in the Rivers ports, with the result that 200 senior posts were unfilled. It claimed that at Port Harcourt in the accounts division a large number of workers had been "acting" in a particular post for more than five years and had never been confirmed in the jobs.

But against this background the hopes of the port authorities are high. Trade through Port Harcourt will continue to rise, congestion in the future at Lagos-Apapa could be an important influence, while the development of the East-Central Rivers, and the Port Harcourt area, is also likely to provide a stimulus to an increased flow of cargo in both directions.

As it is, operators complain about poor stacking of cargo which makes it difficult to locate cargo for onward movement, an archaic customs system, bureaucratic delays and a proliferation of security operations involving the police, the military and the NP's own security personnel. All this is apparently to little avail in reducing the incidence of pilferage.

There are now attempts to improve the dock labour situation in the Lagos port complex with the Government seeking to enter the clearing and forwarding business and at the same time substantially reducing the number of registered contractors handling cargo. Whether this will produce improvements in efficiency remains to be seen but industry sources appear somewhat sceptical.

Certainly the prospects for

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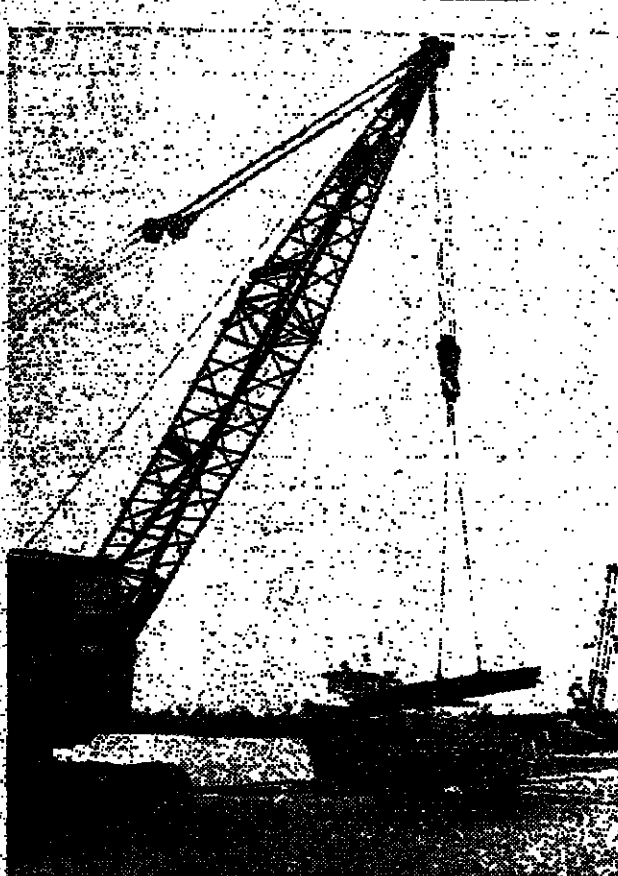
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Warri and Calabar: £7m expansion to confer international status

Warri and Calabar, two of Nigeria's principal ports, are to be expanded at a cost of £7 million to confer international status on them. The expansion programme, which is being financed by the Federal Government, will involve the construction of new berths, the deepening of the approach channels and the installation of modern cargo handling equipment. The Warri port, located on the Benue River, has a long history of trade and commerce. It was one of the main ports for the export of palm oil and other tropical products. The Calabar port, on the Atlantic coast, is also a major port for the export of rubber and other commodities. The expansion of these ports is seen as a key to the development of Nigeria's economy and to the improvement of its international trade relations.

The expansion of Warri and Calabar ports is part of a larger programme to modernise Nigeria's infrastructure. The Federal Government has announced plans to build a new international airport at Lagos, to expand the Port of Lagos and to develop the Port of Harcourt. These projects are seen as essential for the growth of Nigeria's economy and for the improvement of its international trade relations.



Unloading oil pipelines from Japan at Port Warri, Rivers State.

Bonny: rising exports usher in new prosperity

Bonny, which now ranks as Nigeria's principal port for crude oil, has had a long and chequered history, first as a centre of the slave trade and then as the main port for the export of palm oil in West Africa. For about 200 years Bonny, situated 28 miles south of Port Harcourt, which in the early part of this century dislodged Bonny's crown, was the centre of political and economic activity in the Niger delta. The development of Port Harcourt as an inland harbour led to the decline of Bonny to a simple fishing port until the exploitation of its natural advantages as an export terminal for the oil produced by Shell-BP from its Nigerian concessions ushered in a new period of ascendancy.

As Nigeria has assumed a growing importance in the international oil producing and exporting league—it was the seventh largest oil producer in the world last year—Bonny has reflected this trend in a growing volume of exports and steady expansion of capacity. The rising oil output has led to other companies establishing export terminals in the delta, notably Gulf at Escravos and Agip at Brass. When the Bonny terminal began operating in 1961 the first phase of construction included four storage tanks with a total capacity of 380,693 barrels. Since then the storage capacity has been increased first to 3,173,000 barrels, then to 3,903,000 barrels and now to five million barrels made up of some 20 tanks.

Development of Bonny as an oil port involved the dredging of the bar across the mouth of the river to a depth of 27ft and later to 37ft 6in; this enabled tankers of 65,000 to 75,000 tons to sail up to the four inshore loading berths. During the civil war the storage resources were badly damaged, two of the main tanks being destroyed, booster station pumps damaged and the jetty burnt down. The subsequent rehabilitation programme was designed to ensure that the port should be able to cope with the expected increase in crude oil production. As a result of the reconstruction programme the inshore berths at Bonny up to a year ago were handling some 60 tankers every month. But the number of ships using these berths has since fallen because of the introduction of an offshore single buoy mooring installation suited to the loading of very large crude carriers of more than 200,000 tons which in spite of the dredging of the Bonny Bar are unable to sail upriver. The single buoy mooring facility, located between eight and nine miles off shore, is operated jointly with the storage and loading facilities at the Bonny terminal and, while the number of ships handled at the inshore berths has tended to decline, the volume of oil moved through Bonny has continued to rise. During March 56 tankers berthed at Bonny and of these 22 loaded offshore and 34 inshore, while last year 370 tankers loaded at the

continued on page XII



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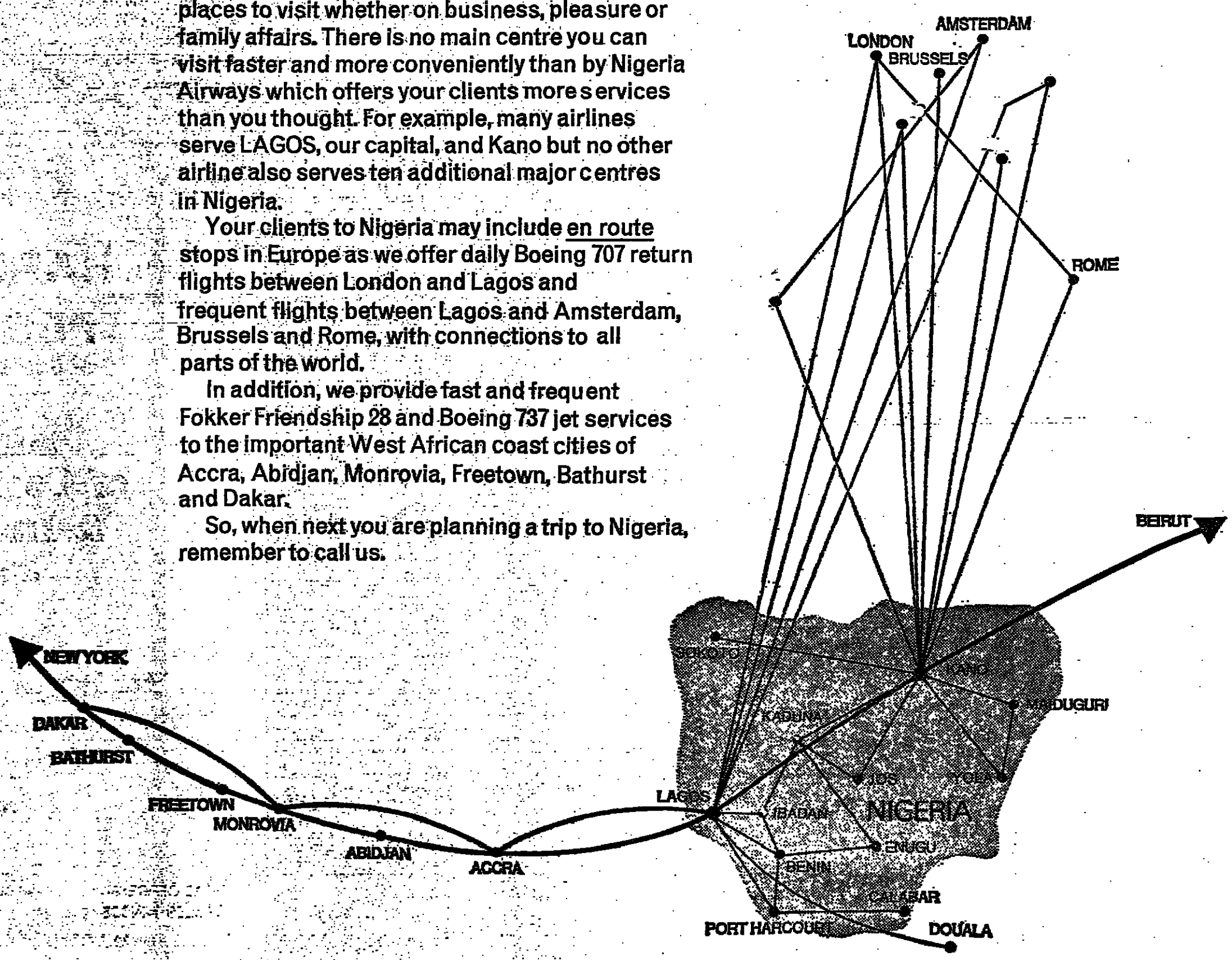
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Railway corporation faces uphill task to provide efficient and reliable services

by Peter Hill

Since the early 1960s, after independence, transportation and communications by road, rail, sea and air have formed a vital element in the development of Nigeria. Substantial progress has been made in virtually every sector, despite the setbacks suffered during the civil war; but there is still a considerable way to go.

In Lagos, the capital, traffic congestion at certain times of the day is probably worse than anywhere in the world. At Apapa, Nigeria's principal port, serious jams develop quickly and stifle the movement of goods in and out of the port. Major roads linking the south with the hinterland, while adequate to cope with present traffic, may be inadequate to cope with the density of traffic likely a few years hence.

The railway system which preceded road development and largely opened up Nigeria's vast hinterland, has been running at a loss for more than a decade.

Within government and the federal and state ministries responsible there is, however, a recognition of transport difficulties and a desire to see that as far as possible they are not allowed to become more acute and thus hinder Nigeria's economic development.

Nigeria's railway system, totalling 2,178 route miles and administered by the Nigerian Railway Corporation, is the sixth largest in Africa. It forms a large and slightly distorted letter H with two north-south links. One runs from Lagos to Nguru in the north, a distance of some 843 miles, while the second reaches from Port Harcourt to Maiduguri (some 897 miles). The routes are linked by a 111-mile stretch between Kaduna and Kafanchan.

Construction of the 3ft 6in gauge single-track system (which is now a major constraint on the railways' effective operation) began in 1898 and throughout has been closely allied with the development of the economy, particularly the movement of agricultural produce from the northern region to the principal ports in the south and the exploitation of natural resources such as tin and coal.

The archaic single track restricts speeds to 40 mph. In addition, the railway has some 1,500 curves of more than 4°. This inevitably creates problems, and, a journey from Lagos to Kano in the north (a distance of

about 700 miles) can take some 30 hours).

Nevertheless Mr T. I. O. Nzewu, acting general manager of the NRC, has said that the corporation's objective is to provide an efficient and reliable service to enhance economic, social and general welfare.

It will continue to be an uphill task to achieve that objective. Predominantly a long distance carrier of freight and passenger traffic, the theoretical capacity of the main line is 24 trains a day in each direction on the Kano-Kaduna-Minna section; 20 on the Minna-Lagos section; and 18 on the Kaduna-Kafanchan-Port Harcourt section.

The NRC both before and after the civil war has tended to take second place, in terms of investment under federal plans, to the development of roads. Though the NRC has sought to improve efficiency through the introduction of diesel locomotives, this has met with only mixed success.

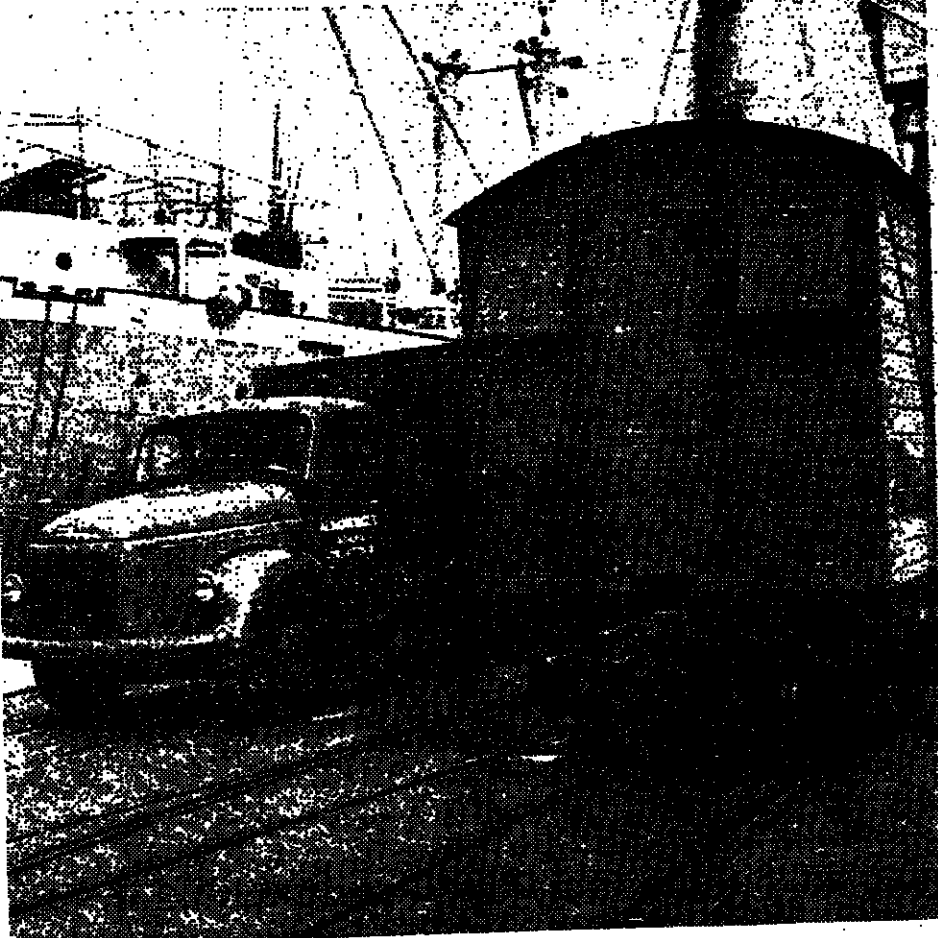
Non-revision of tariffs

Factors which have contributed to the decline of the railway's fortunes are many. They include the non-revisions of tariffs for a period of eight years; the civil war; heavy interest charges on capital and recurrent expenditure; obsolete and inadequate equipment; growing competition from road transport; and the decline in volume of agricultural exports, with a consequent loss of revenue.

Export products such as groundnuts, groundnut cake and oil, and cotton, have traditionally accounted for about half the revenue while freight movements have accounted for about 85 per cent of revenue. Drought in the northern regions in recent years has had a severe effect but has merely underlined the overall downward trend.

In 1958-59 agricultural products exported by rail amounted to 849,500 tons and rose to 880,900 tons in 1963-64. From then the trend was downwards to 767,467 tons in 1968-69, sinking to about 400,000 in 1970-71, and lower still to about 350,000 tons the following year.

NRC executives are clear on the future needs of the railway system, but authority to carry out the reforms and improvements lies with the federal authorities. Governmental studies and decisions on an independent assessment carried out some time ago by Canadian consultants will, in the words of



The busy goods traffic at Apapa docks is illustrated by the conjunction of three types of transport (left) - On the country roads of the Mid-Western State the lorry is as to distribution (right).

the guidelines for the third national development plan, "form the kernel of the railway programme". The document, however, states cryptically the level of new capital infusion will take For under the current national development plan, N644m has been spent on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of 4,588 miles of roads. The wide difference in the amount allocated for road compared with rail investment under the programme has been a source of considerable controversy.

Nevertheless, the benefits which improved road communications have brought have perhaps been felt more immediately by a greater number of people.

And the potential would appear to be there. Witness the development of the Nigerian iron and steel industry, the establishment of major car assembly plants by Peugeot at Kaduna and Volkswagen in Lagos, the predicted growth of containerization in Nigeria and West Africa over the next few years, and the potential for the export of Nigeria's coal reserves, although shortages of rolling stock in the past two months have acted as a brake on this activity.

Despite the problems, Mr Nzewu considers that the age of the NRC has arrived

and against the advances made in road development, the railway would continue to play a vital role in Nigeria's economic development.

But the railway has considerable leeway to make up. For under the current national development plan, N644m has been spent on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of 4,588 miles of roads. The wide difference in the amount allocated for road compared with rail investment under the programme has been a source of considerable controversy.

Growing road traffic

The first trunk road in Nigeria's hinterland was constructed in 1905. Further road (and rail) development followed, and this enabled agricultural produce to be transported from the hinterland to the ports for export; it also facilitated the impor-

tation of development materials. By 1951 the country had a road mileage of 27,000 miles; total mileage is now more than 60,000 miles, about a sixth asphalted. This is made up of 6,625 miles of federal roads, 15,220 of state roads, and 39,750 miles of local roads.

Road traffic has been growing at a rate of about 12 per cent annually for several years and the indications are, that with increasing prosperity, growth will be considerably greater. The extent to which road links have contributed to Nigeria's rate of development can be gauged from the fact that 21 per cent of the country's imports were carried by road in 1955, rising to 68 per cent in 1968. Exports followed a similar pattern rising from 13 per cent in 1955 to 50 per cent by 1968.

Roads in Nigeria are classified in three sections. First, A trunk roads, which form a north-south and east-west grid on which the rest of the road network is built. They link major capitals and provide the link between the large agricultural areas and the main Nigerian ports. B

trunk roads are the responsibility of the states and provide links to the federal grid and to the railway terminals and ports. Finally, the largest number of roads are local authority roads which provide the feeder links to the A and B trunk roads.

The four main north-south A trunk roads link Lagos, Warri, Port Harcourt and Calabar while one of the west-east roads runs from Lagos through the Western, Mid-Western, East Central and South-Eastern states to the border with Cameroon.

Aid to easing congestion

Under the second development plan's road programme, major improvements have been made and a primary objective has been to create a national road network of primary and secondary arteries to cut across the A and B trunk roads. Work has taken place under four broad categories: continuing projects; rehabilitation projects; new projects; and feasibility studies.

The jewel in the crown of the first category is undoubtedly the Apapa road-Jorua Causeway completed in January last year at a cost of N2355m. It includes the first elevated complex in black Africa and together with completion of the Eko bridge has gone a considerable way to easing congestion in the Lagos area. However, it has by no means solved it.

The complex forms part of one of the north-south routes and is also a possible terminal of both the proposed Lagos-Mombasa and Trans-Saharan highways. Other continuing projects include a link between Calabar and Ala; and Warri-Kaduna.

Road rehabilitation, particularly for roads which suffered damage during the civil war, is also being undertaken, while new projects have included the Lagos-Benin expressway which will link the country's two largest cities. Top priority has been given to the Western Avenue-Agege road (carried over from the 1962 development plan). During the current plan, feasibility studies and final

engineering design being carried out on other 15 roads.

Mr M. T. Usman, Director of Public stated recently that of Nigeria's road 1 would be constructed next 10 to 15 years; indeed is important to the degree of nation's economic and social development the Federal Government sought to achieve.

But with the vehicle numbers increasing daily further development of road transport when loading of axes is more than twice the level. This can lead to a rapid deterioration of road surfaces.

Help with the picture caption of this Report was given by J. Cash, Alan Hutchinson and Pike.

Northbound ships light on cargo

Day or night, it is a rare occurrence for any of the berths at Apapa wharf, across the water from Lagos, to be vacant. The port is, after all, the main channel through which most of Nigeria's import and export trade, together with a growing volume of coastal traffic, passes. It is carried by many shipping lines.

Nigeria's large population and demand for the goods and equipment to support industrialization and development are ensuring ample cargoes for the shipping lines certainly in the southbound direction, although the effects of drought on the country's usual agricultural exports are reflected in certain instances in uncomfortably low levels of loading of ships travelling northwards.

After the break-up of the old West African Lines Shipping Conference two separate but related conferences established themselves—the United Kingdom/West Africa Lines Joint Service (UKWAL) and the Continent/West Africa Conference (COWAC), which covers services between the Continent and Scandinavia and West Africa.

There are six lines in membership of the UKWAL, three of them British—Elder Dempster, Palm Line and Guinea Gulf—two African—the Black Star Line of Ghana and the Nigerian National Shipping Line—and the Norwegian Høegh Lines.

The UKWAL service is not restricted to the chief Nigerian ports but operates into some 30 regular ports along the West African coast, although a large part of trade is concerned with shipments to Nigeria. In 1972 south-bound trade amounted to 1,250,000 freight tons to all ports, with some 70 per cent accounted for by trade with Nigeria compared with a level of 50 per cent in 1967 at the start of the civil war.

Bonny: rising exports usher in new prosperity

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inshore berths and between 70 and 80 at the offshore facility.

Shell-BP also has developed additional oil exporting capacity at Forcados because of the increased production from its fields in the western sector of the delta, although Bonny continues to be the principal loading point.

All the operations of the terminal, apart from mooring and the connecting of delivery lines at the inshore section, are directed from a central control room. A 35,000-ton tanker can be loaded in less than 24 hours. The Nigerian Ports Authority is responsible for pilotage and for the dredging and maintenance of the channel.

P.H.

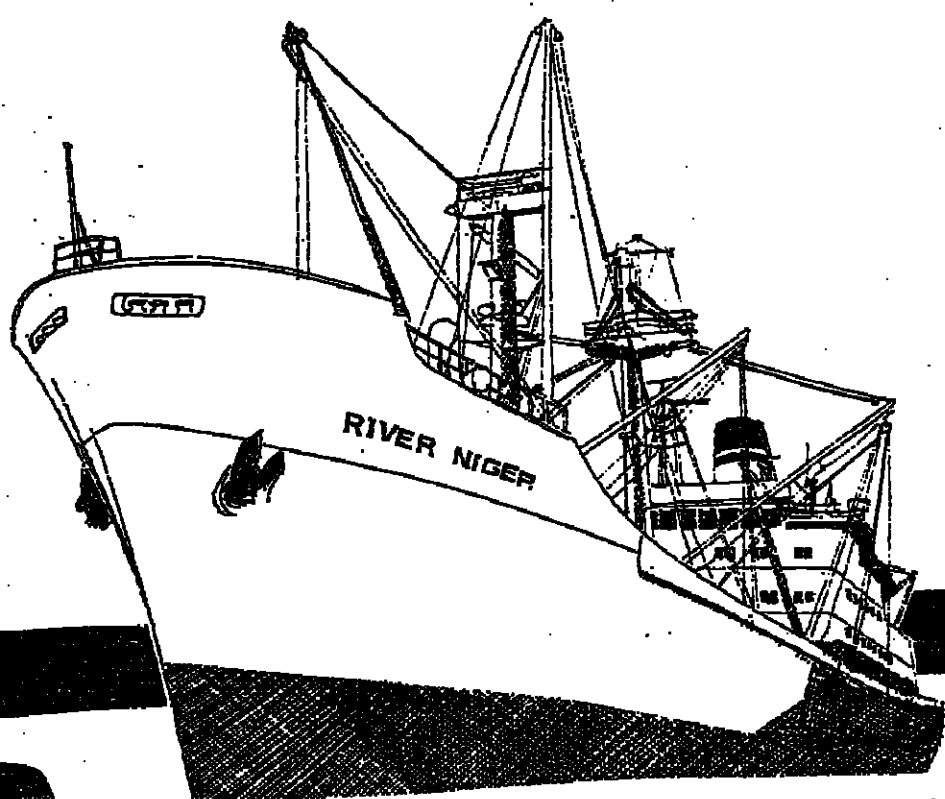
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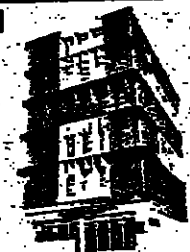
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